

ANIMAL LIFE READERS

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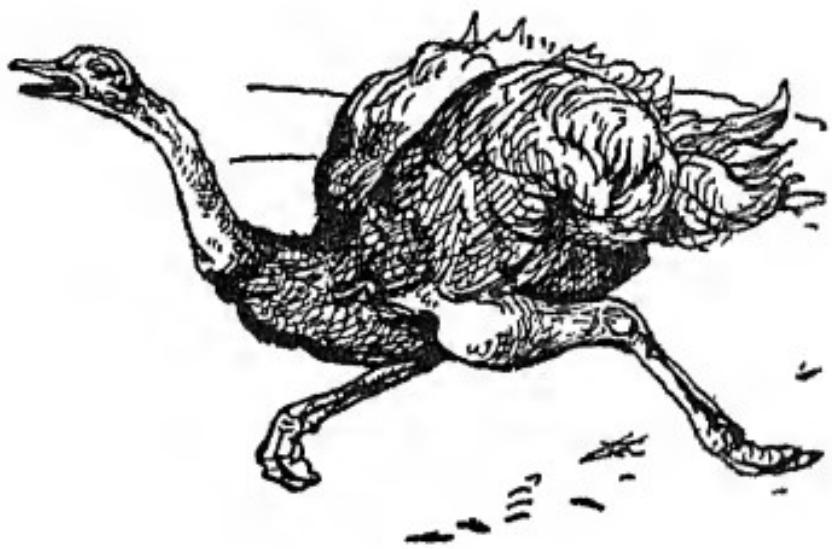
EDITH CARRINGTON AND ERNEST BELL

WITH PICTURES BY

HARRISON WEIR

AND OTHERS

FROM MANY LANDS.



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EDITH CARRINGTON

AUTHOR OF "WORKERS WITHOUT WAGE," "A NARROW, NARROW WORLD,"
"A STORY OF WINGS," ETC., ETC.

WITH PICTURES BY HARRISON WEIR

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PREFACE.

As the sentiment of sympathy towards our fellow men is said to have taken its rise in the family circle, so the feeling of humanity towards the animal world usually has its first beginning in a regard for the domestic cat on the hearth or the dog at the gate. Too often, unfortunately, the development of the humane feeling is arrested and remains for life of very stunted growth. Amongst men, a foreigner or "alien," if not regarded as an actual enemy, is, as the very word implies, looked upon in no friendly spirit. And in like manner, when humanity to animals in many cases does not extend as far as the neighbour's cat or dog, we cannot expect to find much interest shown in the welfare of creatures beyond the seas.

The object of the editors of this volume has been to show that all animals, from whatever land, share with us many of the feelings which we esteem most highly in ourselves, and which are most essential to our well-being—that they are therefore worthy of our respectful consideration, and claim humane treatment at our hands.

The opportunity has been utilized to give the first conception of the geographical distribution of animals, about which even adults not unfrequently seem to have somewhat hazy ideas.

The thanks of the Editors are due to Mrs. Suckling for the use of the poems in this volume reprinted from the "Humane Educator."

E. B.

EUROPE.



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|------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| 1. POLAR BEAR. | 8. EAGLE. | 14. BARBARY APE. |
| 2. REINDEER. | 9. RED STAG. | 15. TUNNY. |
| 3. COMMON FOX. | 10. CHAMOIS. | 16. WOLF. |
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| 5. WEASEL. | 12. VULTURE. | 18. STURGEON. |
| 6. BROWN BEAR. | 13. HEDGE HOG | 19. BACTRIAN CAMEL. |
| 7. WILD BOAR. | | |

FROM MANY LANDS.

EUROPE.

1. Though Europe is the smallest of the continents in the Old World, its people are richer, more powerful, and more highly civilized than those which inhabit the rest.
2. There are fewer fierce wild animals in Europe than in other continents, and poisonous snakes are but rare. Brown bears, wolves, and wild boars still lurk in the forests of Russia, Austria, and the Pyrenees.
3. In the extreme north, reindeer, who are at home in the snow, and elks live, polar bears are seen on the frozen shores of Lapland and along the desolate coasts of the Arctic Sea. Among the Alps the pretty and nimble little chamois spring from crag to crag.
4. Stags, fallow-deer or roebucks are common in the central countries. Upon one spot of Europe only, the rock of Gibraltar, a glimpse may now and then be caught of a Barbary ape. Beavers still inhabit the broad lonely rivers of Russia.

5. Fish of many kinds abound in the rivers and seas of Europe. The streams of Norway and Scotland teem with salmon. Herrings, mackerel, pilchards, and cod swarm in the northern seas, and a large fish called "tunny" in the Mediterranean.

6. The largest of fresh-water fish dwells in the south-eastern rivers of Europe. It sometimes reaches a length of ten feet, has been known to weigh five hundred pounds, and is named the sturgeon.

7. Europe is rich in birds of song. Web-footed birds like the wild swan, duck, and goose frequent the northern portion, while the vulture and golden eagle soar far above the lofty peaks of the southern mountain ranges, or build their nests on the peaks.

8. The camel is sometimes used as a beast of burden across the Russian steppes, but horses are more plentiful in Russia than in any other part of Europe. It is said that there are as many as four horses for each person to be found in that country.

9. The domestic animals of Europe, such as the horse, ass, sheep, cattle, pigs, and poultry are a great source of wealth to Europeans, though perhaps these dumb servants are not so well treated here as in some less civilized lands, which is a great pity.

10. In our own island the horse is not so well understood nor so carefully used as he is in Russia, nor are sheep and cattle treated so



AT HOME IN THE SNOW.

kindly and wisely as they are in Switzerland and some other countries.

11. The wild animals of Great Britain are

small; their numbers are few, and they are becoming scarcer day by day. We are able to tell that people and animals very different from those at present found dwelt in these islands ages ago, before history began to be written.

12. The bones of vast and strange creatures, unlike any which live here now, have been found in caves, or dug out of the ground. From these we know that once a huge hairy kind of elephant with long curly tusks stalked through the forests which then covered the whole of England.

13. It is called the mammoth, and it measured eighteen feet from head to tail. It is strange to think that where London now stands, elephants of an enormous size once wallowed in the marsh or browsed on the leaves of trees.

14. Bones of large hyænas have been found, with teeth which show how gigantic their owners were. Lions and tigers as well as the hippopotamus and many other like creatures roamed where now our peaceful flocks graze.

15. Flint arrow-heads, picked up in great numbers, show that men, too, lived at that time and made these rude darts to defend themselves from wild beasts and from each other.

16. The chief caverns in which remains of this sort have been found in England are Wookey Hole, near Wells, and Kent's Cavern in Devonshire. The only wild flesh-eating

animals to be found in Great Britain now are the fox, badger, otter, weasel, stoat, and wild cat, which abound in other parts of Europe.

17. Besides these, the timid and gentle hare, rabbit, squirrel, dormouse, hedgehog, and mole, also found on the Continent, make the country cheerful by their presence and add to the beauty of the fields by their harmless life.

Questions : 1. What animals inhabit the northern regions of Europe ? 2. Name a beast of burden used in Russia, and tell me something about the number of horses there. 3. How can we tell that animals of a different kind once lived in Great Britain ? 4. What are the names of two caves where bones of creatures have been found ? 5. What signs of man's presence before history was written are picked up ? 6. Name some wild animals of Great Britain at the present time.

2. DOMESTIC ANIMALS.

1. By "domestic animals" we mean such creatures as man has tamed, taught to depend on him for food, to live near him, and to work in his service. Without the help of creatures like the horse, cow, and sheep we could hardly live at all, and certainly not in comfort.

2. As these docile creatures are willing to live with and work for us, it is our duty to see that they have all they need in return; the more so because they cannot ask in our language for

what they want, but can only plead in their own way.

3. Money is of no use to animals. We must pay servants of this humble kind in other ways—with good food, warm shelter, and kind words. And we must take care of them when they are ill, old, and weak, for they suffer pain like ourselves.

4. All this is the just and right wages which we ought to give animals in payment for all they do for us. Animals know their friends from their foes, and they know the difference between harsh words and kind ones.

5. A horse dreads an angry word almost as much as a blow. He will be faithful to those who treat him well. A boy called Larry once had a fine black pony named Maud. He was a bad fellow, and treated his little horse very cruelly.

6. At last a neighbour took pity on the pony and bought it for his son Fred. Maud soon found out the difference between a good master and a bad one. She loved Fred, who always gave her gentle words as well as taking care of her in other ways.

7. But Larry was so angry because Fred had his pony that he got two other lads to lie in wait with him, that they might give Fred a thrashing next time they saw him riding Maud.

8. Boys who are cruel to animals are always cowardly towards each other, so Larry was not ashamed of setting three upon one. The bullies sprang from behind a hedge on Fred and the pony.



A FARM SCENE.

9. But, as soon as Maud saw that they were trying to harm her friend, she fought for him bravely. Rushing at Larry, she seized him with her teeth, and gave him such a shaking that he

lay on the ground with a broken leg and a wounded shoulder.

10. The other two cowards were glad to run away. Though you may think that cattle seem dull, they, too, know how to value a good turn. A great and good friend of animals, Mr. Angell, once helped a cow in distress by pulling her out of a ditch.

11. At first the frightened creature pushed at him with her horns, but suddenly it seemed to come into her head that the stranger meant to do her a kindness.

12. Then she began to lick his coat, just as she would have licked her calf. Of course, she could not mistake a man for her own child, so she must have been trying to thank him as well as she could.

13. If cows are chased about or ill-used, their milk becomes poisonous. The Swiss milkmaids who can sing to the cows are paid more wages than those who cannot. It is good for cattle to be soothed and made happy.

14. Sheep are not stupid, but so very timid that they seem to lose their wits when driven or abused. A clergyman was once riding his bicycle across a field, when a sheep ran up to him and seemed to ask him to follow her.

15. When he did so, the creature showed him one of her comrades who had fallen into the

water. She had sense enough to go and fetch help. Pigs are neither stupid nor dirty by nature. It is the fault of his master when the pig is unclean.

Questions: 1. What do we mean by domestic animals? 2. Without the help of such creatures as the horse, cow, and sheep, what should we do? 3. What is it our duty to do for these creatures in return for their work? 4. What sort of boy was Larry? 5. What did Maud do for Fred?

3. THE GOLDEN EAGLE.

1. This splendid bird, who takes his name from the fine yellow colour of his feet, is very seldom to be seen now in the British Isles. Once he was not very rare in the North of England, and was often to be found in Scotland.

2. Those who have only seen a stuffed eagle in a museum, or even a living eagle chained to a perch and shut up, can have no idea of what this King of birds really is.

3. One glance at him while he is living and in freedom, able to move as he was meant to do, like lightning through the sky, is worth hours of looking at him in a glass case, or in some garden where he must have a chain on his leg, and be kept a prisoner.

4. It is a wonder how any person can like to look at such a wretched object as a captive eagle.

In climbing a high mountain, a man was once able to get a good view of a golden eagle, which came close to him.

5. The eagle did not see the man, who hid behind a rock, but the man was able to watch the glorious bird. A roaring torrent was beside the rock, and above the loud noise which its waters made, a shrill cry made itself heard.

6. On looking up, the man saw a dark speck in the sky, moving steadily towards him. It was a golden eagle. And as it drew nearer, he could see that the great bird hardly ever moved his wings. He seemed to float or sail in mid-air, as a ship does on the sea.

7. After looking round him once or twice, the eagle darted his legs down, gave himself a little shake, and settled on a rock a few yards off from the hidden man.

8. For a moment the eagle gazed about him with his sharp, bright eyes, as if to make sure that all was safe; he then stretched out one wing, and nestled his head beneath it as if he were dressing and pluming his feathers.

9. Having made himself tidy and smooth, the eagle stretched out his neck with a keen and wistful gaze towards that part of the heavens from which he had come, and uttered a few rapid screams.

10. Then he began to stamp with his feet, first

clasping and then unclasping his big claws, ~~as if~~ he were in a hurry to be off, and could not wait with patience. At the same time he snapped his



THE KING OF BIRDS.

hooked beak with a loud jerking noise, like the crack of a whip.

11. There he stayed for about ten minutes, in

a very restless state, never keeping quiet for an instant, till, at last, he seemed to hear a sound that he knew, or to see something for which he longed.

12. He sprung up and launched himself into the air, and floated away as before. Looking after him, the man now saw what the eagle had been waiting and watching for. It was his mate. He had seen or heard her coming, and had risen to meet her.

13. After soaring in circles together for a few times round, they went away and were soon out of sight. If this man had shot the beautiful eagle, he would not have seen this fine sight. By watching creatures patiently while they are alive and free, we can learn far more about them than by killing them, or shutting them up to mope and pine in cages.

Questions. 1. Why are eagles so seldom seen in our islands now? 2. What was a man once able to have a good view of? 3. What did the eagle look like when he was far off? 4. How did he seem to be flying? 5. What was the eagle waiting for on the rock? 6. In what way can we learn most about creatures?

4. THE BOYS AND THE EAGLE.

1. A large eagle weighs about twelve pounds. He is hardly heavier than a middle-sized goose,

although his wings often measure as much as ten feet across when they are spread out.

2. The strength of these wings is immense, and as his body is light, the eagle is able to fly at the speed of one hundred and forty miles an hour. An eagle's strength is so great, that he



YOUNG EAGLES IN THEIR NURSERY.

has been known to kill his prey with a single blow of his wing.

3. This giant bird chooses a flat ledge or platform of rock, on some lonely mountain top, on which to place his nest. It is called an eyrie, and the parent birds are shrewd enough to know that it is of no use to build their house of light stuff,

which the wind would soon blow away from such a place.

4. The eagle brings very large sticks for his nest, and just puts them down as a bed for his nestlings. His young are hardy, and need no coddling. That part of the nest in which the young ones are hatched is less than half of it.

5. The rest of the great bundle of sticks and the platform round it is the eagle's cupboard or larder. Here the father and mother birds store up as many rats, mice, hares, rabbits, and ducks as they can find, and sometimes even young lambs and kids are among the slain.

6. The eagles are afraid that they may not be able day by day to find fresh food for their little ones or eaglets. So they catch what they can when they see a chance, and put it by.

7. As soon as the young birds are able to fly, the old eagles take them to the top of some steep rock, from which they may begin to try their wings. Here the parent birds give their young a lesson in flying.

8. The little eagles learn how to fix their eyes on the sun without blinking, as their parents can do, and how to go upward in circles towards the bright beams. The eyesight of the eagle is so strong that no light dazzles him, and he is able to see a rabbit or hare on the ground when he is high up in the clouds.

9. Though he attacks large birds like the swan, he will not hurt such little ones as the sparrow or skylark. And one kind of eagle will allow little birdies of all sorts to hop about his great nest and pick up what his eaglets have left. He never hurts these small beggars.

10. Two boys once robbed the nest of an eagle, and were going off with the young, when, from afar off, the mother spied them, and suddenly rushed towards the spot like a whirlwind. She made a fearful attack upon the young thieves.

11. The boys tried to defend themselves with sticks, but they were obliged to run away, leaving the young eagles behind. They had a narrow escape. A small stream ran near, and in order to give greater power to her wing, the eagle dipped the feathers in water and trailed the wet wing through the sand to make it into a harder whip.

12. The blow was thus far more severe. She gave the boys a good drubbing, which served them right. All birds would defend their young as well as this eagle did, if they were strong enough. If we steal from them because they are weak and small, is it not cowardly?

Questions: 1. How much does a large eagle weigh? 2. How wide are his wings? 3. How many miles can he fly in an hour? 4. What sort of sticks does the eagle choose for his nest? 5. How did a mother-eagle fight for her young ones? 6. What would smaller and weaker birds do if they could?

5. THE WOLF.

1. This is a very hardy and strong animal. It is a good thing for the wolf that he is so, for he has to bear much cold, and many other hardships besides. Once wolves were found in all parts of Europe, even in England.

2. But now there are not many left except in Russia. Such creatures as these must be killed in lands where many people live and keep flocks and herds. But there is no need to kill them unmercifully, nor to take pleasure in their sufferings and death.

3. The wolf has much that helps him to bear the comfortless life which he must often lead. How much like a dog he looks! And he is the cousin of our friend the dog. He has much of his nature, even when wild.

4. His coat of shaggy fur keeps him warm. He has a very keen sense of smell, which aids him in finding food in the most difficult times; and also very good eyesight, that he may see afar off what is at too great a distance for him to smell.

5. The young wolf does not learn all at once to be a good hunter. When he is first born, a little sandy-coloured cub, his mother suckles him,



THE WOLF AND THE DOG.

and both father and mother bring home food for their little ones as soon as they are able to eat flesh.

6. The parents will go out together to provide for their family, and they help each other in the chase. If the pair come to a sheep-fold which they wish to rob, the she-wolf will draw away the dog after herself, trying to provoke a quarrel with him, while her mate steals a sheep.

7. After passing two months at home, the wolf-cubs are taken out by their mother and taught how to hunt for themselves. At first they do little more than look on, but by degrees they learn the lesson, and by the time that they are eight months old they are cast off by their mother.

8. She thinks that they are now able to take care of themselves, which is true. In summer time the wolf feeds on such small wild creatures as he can catch in the woods, or even on insects.

9. He sleeps during the day in some hole or cave, and comes out at night. It is in winter, when his natural food fails, that he becomes terribly hungry and is dangerous to man.

10. But even when half-starved, should he meet a man on horseback with a dog, the wolf will attack the horse or dog first. Through the long Russian winters, wolves hunt in packs.

11. These always obey their leader, and each one of the troop takes part in catching the prey

which they afterwards share. They do not try who can catch it first, but manage in a more orderly way.

12. As soon as the wolf smells some creature or sees its footsteps in the snow, some of the pack are set by the leaders to watch on the right and left hand sides while the rest go forward. In this way their prey has little chance of escape.

13. Like all flesh-eating animals, wolves seem to keep in check the hosts of plant-eating animals, whose numbers would otherwise become too many in waste places.

14. Animals such as deer, wild goats, and sheep, feed on young trees or herbage, and would make the places where they live a desert if they were left alone. But when the wolf hunts he is not cruel. It is his nature to find food in this way.

Questions: 1. What helps the wolf to hunt his prey? 2. Why is it not cruel for a wolf to hunt? 3. How long do the wolf-cubs stay in the den, and when does the mother cast them off? 4. Tell me how wolves hunt in winter time. 5. What is their food during the summer? 6. If a wolf met a man on horseback with a dog, which would he first attack?

6. A SOUND SLEEPER.

1. How nice it would be to see this pretty little thing weaving his nest, or at play in the

woods! But it is not easy to watch Mr. and Mrs. Dormouse while they are having a little fun, or building their house.

2. They do not like anybody to stare at them. And they want to go to sleep just when we want to walk about. They come out to romp just when we are snug in bed and asleep. Yet sometimes on a warm summer evening, we may catch a glimpse of these bright little things, as they climb a hazel tree in search of nuts.

3. The dormouse is a tiny kind of squirrel, and not a real mouse at all. His big cousin, the real squirrel, comes out by day, while he himself roams abroad at night, leaving the squirrel tucked up in his nest and fast asleep.

4. Nothing can be more gay, more quick, more frisky, than the little dormouse, as he runs about the boughs of some bush, seeking for wild fruits. After he has eaten his supper, he washes his face as a cat does, and cleans his fur and whiskers.

5. He can take long leaps like the squirrel, from one branch to another. All the summer through he enjoys his free life very much; and when it begins to feel cold, he makes a warm nest for himself, in a hedge, about a yard above the ground.

6. Either at the bottom of it, or close by, the wise little fellow stores up some nuts, acorns, or

wild berries. This is his cupboard of food. And if he should wake up hungry one day, before



MR. AND MRS. DORMOUSE AT HOME.

the weather is quite warm enough for him to find food, he nibbles a meal and goes to sleep again.

7. In summer he makes a different sort of nest for his little ones. As the mother has to go in and out of this, the dormouse makes a little curtain in front of the doorway out of grass blades. These spring back into their place and hide the hole after they have been drawn aside by the little paw.

8. The mother-dormouse gives her little ones milk at first, till their teeth are cut, and they learn how to bite green shoots and wild fruits. The sweet blackberries are a feast for young dormice. They can run along the prickly boughs grasping the thorny stems with their tiny pink hands, without pricking themselves.

9. A dormouse will keep the tip of his tail curled round a twig while he eats his nut. He can hang by his tail like a monkey if he likes, and have a good swing. Often he will choose to nibble his nut while it is growing on the tree and is fresh, instead of picking it.

10. You may find nutshells left still sticking to the tree with round holes bitten in them, and the kernels gone. When a neat round hole is bored in the nut, you may be sure that it was the work of a dormouse.

11. This little mouse does not make a good pet. He wants you to leave him alone in the woods. It is almost as bad to cage him as it is to cage a bird. It frightens him terribly to be

kept in a house, and he can never be really happy in any box with wires all round him.

Questions: 1. When does the dormouse want to sleep? 2. What sort of nest does he make for the winter? 3. What does he store up near it? 4. What wild fruits do dormice like? 5. How does he like to eat fresh nuts? 6. Tell me what is bad for a dormouse?

7. CUCKOO.

1. Here is a bird whose mellow voice we are all glad to hear. It makes us feel very joyful when the cuckoo calls out his own name, as if to say, "Here I am again! Winter is gone and a good time is coming. Be merry, like me!"

2. He calls out as he is flying sometimes, but oftener he sits on a branch to make his pleasant music. And as he shouts aloud, he turns his head and body from side to side, so that the sound he makes is thrown to the right and left.

3. You cannot tell where he is sitting, and often you would guess quite wrong, although you may hear him crying "Cuckoo, cuckoo," quite near as it seems. It is wise of him to do this, for he wishes to be hidden.

4. The cuckoo is a handsome fellow, with a bluish grey back, and dark wings and tail spotted with white. His legs and feet are bright yellow,

his beak is long and crooked a little, like that of a hawk. He is a sort of hawk himself. The inside of his mouth is bright orange, and so is the ring round his eye.

5. This bird is a great traveller, though he tells no one where he goes. And he only pays us a short visit, from April to August. In May and June the mother-cuckoo lays her eggs; we do not know the exact number of them. And after that time, the cuckoo changes his song.

6. He seems to have forgotten what he is called, and he stammers “cuck, cuck, cuck,” instead of speaking plainly. In the autumn he leaves England, but his children stay later than their father and mother, perhaps till October.

7. Some folks think that the stuttering “cuck, cuck, cuck,” which we hear at that time, comes from the young cuckoos, who are learning to talk. Now, though we love this pretty bird, and enjoy listening to his flute-like voice, he is a fellow who puzzles us all.

8. He is fond of wandering, his mate makes no nest for herself and her little ones. He seldom stays long in any place. Many wise men have spent years in trying to find out a reason for the cuckoo’s strange habits. But no one has yet been able to tell us why these birds build no nests.

9. What a pity it is that the cuckoo cannot

tell us his secret! The mother-cuckoo lays her eggs in the nests of other birds, but we must not fancy that she is careless about her young. No. She is most careful about the place where she puts her egg.

10. She does not just shove it into the first nest that she happens to find, but takes as much pains to find a proper nest as a human mother



CALLING OUT HIS OWN NAME.

would do in finding a good school for her child, supposing that she was obliged to part with it to strangers.

11. The cuckoo thinks, or knows beforehand, that when her young one is born it will want insects to eat. So she takes pains to find a nest of some other bird which also feeds its young on insects.

12. Then she is sure that her little one will be fed with the sort of food which is right for him. She often chooses the nest of the hedge-sparrow, but sometimes she prefers that of the wren, skylark, or robin, and wagtail, who also give their nestlings that kind of food.

Questions. 1 In what way does the cuckoo move his head when he calls? 2. In what month does he come to England? 3. Tell me what he is like? 4. At what time does he go away? 5. Where does the female cuckoo lay her eggs? 6. What thought does she take for her young before they are born?

8. A BIG CHILD.

1. Though the cuckoo is four times as big as a skylark, her egg is no larger than that of the lark. So that when it is placed in her nest, the skylark does not notice it among her own.

2. Sometimes the cuckoo's egg is put into the nest of a wren, or into some other nest so small, that the cuckoo could not possibly have sat there to lay it.

3. How does the mother-cuckoo manage to get her egg into these tiny nests? She lays her egg on the ground, and then taking it up in her wide beak, she carries it to the nest and pushes it in.

4. Often, though not always, there is a like-

ness between the egg of the cuckoo and those already in the nest where she places it. This seems very wonderful, for how can the cuckoo make her egg blue or white, or stripe it with brown, or make spots and specks on it?

5. Yet many cuckoo's eggs are like enough



A TINY FOSTER-MOTHER.

to the eggs of the hedge-sparrow, skylark, and other birds to make those little mothers think that the stranger's egg is one of their own. They might perhaps turn it out if they knew it was not theirs at all.

6. A pair of cuckoos was once seen watching two little hedge-sparrows as they built a nest.

The cuckoos were waiting in an anxious way till it was ready, so that the mother-cuckoo might go and put her egg there.

7. Soon after the young cuckoo is hatched in the nest of his foster-mother, he grows so big that there is no room for the other nestlings. He is strong, too, and the other poor little things are pushed out of their nursery by this great bird.

8. Their giant foster-brother shoves them away without caring that they must die. It would be very dreadful if a boy or girl did things of this sort, but the cuckoo does not know what he is doing.

9. Children are taught that they must not push and shove for the best places, and be selfish. But the young cuckoo has no one to teach him all this, and he has not sense enough to learn either. He cannot care for others as we can.

10. Though it is sad for the nestlings, who soon die on the ground under their snug little home, it is lucky for the pair of birds who have to feed the cuckoo. They love him dearly, and do not seem to know that he pushed their little ones out.

11. These faithful little foster-parents would work themselves to death if they had their own brood to feed as well as the cuckoo, for he keeps them at work all day long fetching him insects to eat.

12. The cuckoo is a very useful bird, because he devours so many harmful grubs and insects. People have thought of many reasons for the cuckoo's queer habit of making no nest.

13. The most likely reason seems to be that after the mother has laid one egg she cannot lay another for many days, and the third would be laid many days after the second, and so on.

14. If she built a nest and sat on the first egg, and then laid others, the young ones would all be hatched at different times. She could not manage well to be sitting on eggs and feeding young ones at the same time.

Questions: 1. How does the cuckoo put her egg into a small nest? 2. How much larger is a cuckoo than a lark? 3. How much larger is her egg than that of the lark? 4. What were a pair of cuckoos seen doing? 5. Tell me one reason which may make the cuckoo lay her eggs in other nests? 6. What has the mother-cuckoo been seen to do for her young one after it was hatched?

9. LOST! THREE LITTLE ROBINS.

1. Oh, where is the boy in the jacket of grey,
Who climbed up the tree in the orchard to-day,
And carried my three little birdies away?

They hardly were dressed,
When he took from the nest
My three little robins, and left me bereft.

2. Oh, wrens, have you seen in your travels
 to-day,

A very small boy dressed in jacket of grey,
And carrying three little robins away?

 He had light-coloured hair,
 And his feet were both bare.

Ali me! he was cruel and mean, I declare.

3. Oh, butterfly, stop! just one moment, I pray;
Have you seen a boy dressed in jacket of grey,
Who carried my three little birdies away?

 He had pretty blue eyes,
 And was small of his size.

Oh! he must be wicked, and not very wise.

4. Ch, bees, with your bags of sweet honey, do
 stay!

Have you seen a boy dressed in jacket of grey,
Who carried my three little birdies away?

 Did he go through the town,
 Or go sneaking aroun'

Through hedges and byways with head hanging
 down?

5. Oh, boy, with blue eyes, dressed in jacket of
 grey,

If you will bring back my three birdies to-day,
With sweetest of music the gift I'll repay!

I'll sing all day long
My merriest song,
And I will forgive you this terrible wrong.

6. Oh, skylark! did you see my birdies and me,
How happy we were in the old apple-tree,
Until I was robbed of my young, as you see?

 Oh, how can I sing,
 Unless he will bring
My three robins back to sleep under my wing?

AUNT CLARE. ("Songs.")

10. FRIENDLY SWALLOWS.

1. Two swallows once built their nest in a corner above a window which faced the north, and was therefore open to the gale. A fine brood of young ones were soon hatched.

2. But one day a heavy storm of wind and rain made the mud of which their little dwelling was built so moist, that it could no longer bear the weight of the little birdies inside.

3. The beating of the rain against its sides at last caused the nest to fall down, soaked through. It dropped, brood and all, into the lower corner of the window, and was broken to pieces.

4. The helpless little birds were left to shiver in the cold wind, while the rain poured upon

their feeble bodies. To save the little creatures from death, the master of the house very kindly caused a covering to be thrown over them.

5. After a time, when the storm had nearly passed away, the parents came to the spot and began to hover above the covering, which prevented them from seeing whether their young ones were alive or dead.

6. They did not come alone, but brought many of their friends with them. When the tempest was over, the owner of the house caused the covering to be taken away. The whole troop of swallows showed the greatest joy when they saw the little ones safe and well.

7. Their father and mother at once set about feeding them, and after this was done, the entire group of swallows seemed to be setting about some great work. They arranged themselves in proper order, and, each taking part in the task, brought mud in his bill.

8. Before nightfall they had, by toiling hard, managed to build an arched roof over the young where they lay. This protected the brood from further harm.

9. From the time that it took these kind swallows to build the mud hut, it was plain that the little birds must have died of cold and hunger before they, the parents, could have done a tenth part of the job by themselves.

10. The friendly swallows, you see, know that "many hands make light work." They are good



THE GOOD STEP-MOTHER.

neighbours as well as loving parents. A couple of swallows built their nest in a stable, the

female laid her eggs, and began to sit upon them.

11. But some days after, her mate was seen flying about the nest in a lonely and forlorn way, sometimes sitting upon a nail near it and uttering a very mournful cry. A sad misfortune had happened to him.

12. Some kind person fetched a ladder, and on looking into the nest, found the mother-bird dead, with her feathers still spread out to cover the eggs. Her body was taken out. The male, left alone, then tried to do his duty by the eggs alone.

13. For about two hours he sat upon them himself, but finding it a very slow business, he went out, and soon came back with another bird. This was a lady swallow whom he had persuaded to become a step-mother to his little orphans.

14. She proved a tender and faithful nurse to them, reared his family, and cared for them as if they were her own, till they were able to provide for themselves.

Questions: 1. From which quarter did the gale blow? 2. What harm did the storm do to the nest? 3. Who sheltered the little ones at first? Who cared for them afterwards? 5. What misfortune happened to a male swallow? 6. How did he supply the loss of his mate?

11. STORIES ABOUT SPARROWS.

1. Though the sparrow has not such bright plumage as the other finches, he has soft pretty colours in his dress of feathers. In towns he often looks smutty, because he is fond of living near our smoky chimneys; but in country places his chestnut, black, and gray hues look clear and fresh.

2. He is a bold, brisk little fellow, and will hop quite close to your feet, first peering at you out of his sharp black eye, for fear you should do him any harm. The streets of our towns would be very dull without him.

3. A poor sparrow was once made a prisoner in his own nest. He and his wife were searching for a good place in which to make their home, when the male bird, finding a tempting hole among the tiles of a roof, got in to take a look round.

4. Unlucky sparrow! He could not get out again, for some broken mortar stopped up part of the passage. His mate at once saw the danger, and she began flying round the hole and trying, in great trouble, to pull him out.

5. Some other sparrows from the same roof came up to see what was the matter, and to offer

their help. But she beat them all off with her wings, and began to tug at her husband alone, harder than before. She seized his head just above the beak with her own bill, and went on dragging at him till at last he was killed!

6. But the widow-bird, not knowing the mischief she had done, went on pulling at the dead body of her mate just as if it had been alive. She was at last driven away by someone who had watched the scene, and who went to take out the dead sparrow from the hole.

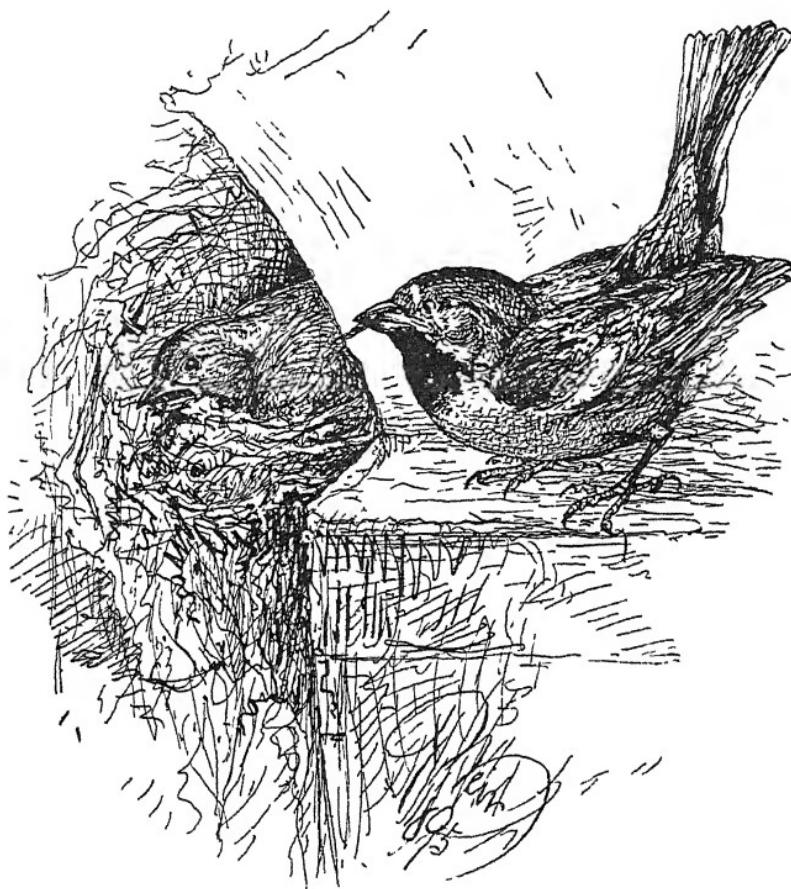
7. About an hour after, the little hen bird was seen sitting on the very spot where she had lost sight of her mate, with her feathers ruffled up into a rough ball, looking the very picture of sorrow.

8. A friendly sparrow was once in the habit of visiting a canary in his cage. He must have pitied his poor brother finch who could not get out. This canary belonged to a lady at Chelsea, who used to put the bird in its cage outside her window because he sang too loud.

9. One morning, as she was at breakfast, a sparrow was seen to fly round the cage. He perched upon the top of it, and began to twitter to the captive bird inside. The two birds seemed to be having a little talk together.

10. After a few minutes, the sparrow went away, but soon came back with a small grub or

insect in his mouth, as a present to the canary. Day after day the kindly sparrow would pay



A FAITHFUL PAIR.

visits to his friend in prison. And he never came with an empty beak.

11. After a time, the canary grew so fond of the good sparrow that he would take the morsel

which was brought him from the beak of the sparrow, instead of letting him drop it into the cage. Some other people near also hung their birds in cages outside, and the same sparrow fed them now and then. But his first and longest visit was always paid to his oldest friend.

Questions: 1. How did the sparrow show faithfulness to her mate? 2. How did a sparrow once show kindness to a prisoner? 3. In what way do sparrows show trust in men? 4. What makes the difference in appearance between town and country sparrows?

12. SPARROWS AS HOUSE-BUILDERS.

1. The house-sparrow often shows great sense by the way in which he makes his nest fit into the place which he has chosen for it. But it is never so neat a home as that which the little hedge-sparrow makes in a bush.

2. He is clever enough to take any chance he can get of finding a roof ready made for his little ones; but if he cannot do this he makes one himself. As a rule, he makes a hole under the thatch, or gets into a water-spout, or some snug corner close to a warm chimney, for his home in early spring.

3. Sometimes he pokes enough odds and ends

of straw and litter into a hole to fill a large hat. But if the hole is small, he only fits in about a handful of the first things he can get, to serve as bedding for his babies.

4. A couple of sparrows once built their nest on the top of a canvas blind, outside the front of a drawing-room window, where a wooden ledge kept off the rain from the blind. The people inside the room did not know of the nest, so they let down the blind when the sun became hot, and down tumbled the nest too.

5. The next day the same sparrows were in a hurry to build it again under the same wooden ledge. They went to the lawn where the gardener was mowing, and picked up a great quantity of green grass, daisies, and buttercups. They seemed to know that the grass would soon become nice dry hay.

6. Next the small couple popped in at the open window and snatched up a skein of darning cotton from a lady's workbox, a long, tangled piece of string from the floor, a yard



A HEDGE-SPARROW'S NEAT NEST.

or so of narrow ribbon, and some shreds of torn paper.

7. With these, and a few feathers from the nearest hen-house, they made a new nest. Before the next morning an egg was placed in the middle of this odd mixture. The sparrows rear two or three broods each year.

8. Very often a sparrow is wise enough to use an old rooks' nest as a sort of umbrella, and to build his own beneath it. The parent sparrows often take care of their young for quite a long time after they leave the nest, especially if any trouble should befall the brood.

9. In pulling down an old shed, a nest of young sparrows was once taken out. The little birds were not able to feed themselves, but the person who found the nest hoped that the old birds might perhaps follow and feed them if he carried them home with him.

10. He held up the nest before taking it into his house, and made the young ones utter the loud cry which they give when asking for food. Then he put them into a wire cage, left the door open, and placed it on the window sill.

11. Having hidden himself, the kind man had the pleasure of seeing the old birds come with grubs in their mouths and feed their babies. This they did day after day, from morning till night, till the nestlings were fledged.

12. The man then placed the strongest of the brood outside the cage. His father and mother showed great delight at seeing their son free. They chattered and made a great noise with their voices and wings to show how glad they were.

13. And they seemed to be trying to make him fly away with them, while he, with a feeble cry, seemed to say, "I cannot." But the old sparrows flew backwards and forwards to the nearest chimney pot, as if to show him the way. At last he plucked up his courage and reached this spot in safety.

14. Next day a second young bird was put outside the cage, and so on, till all the four were gone. Not one of them ever again paid a visit to the cage. They had found out how much happier they could be without iron wires all round them.

Questions: 1. What sense does the sparrow show in making his nest? 2. What materials did a pair of sparrows once use? 3. When building in a tree, how does the sparrow sometimes find a ready-made roof? 4. What does he do if he cannot find a shelter overhead for his nest? 5. What did a pair of sparrows do for their young in a cage? 6. How did the young ones show that they liked freedom best?

13. THE BULLFINCH.

1. This is one of our most charming wild birds, with its jet-black head, soft pink breast, gray back, and wings that have pretty white bars across them. The bullfinch builds its nest in May, in some low tree or bush.

2. It is rather shallow, and is made of twigs lined with a few fine roots or a little dry grass. There are about four spotted eggs in it. Two broods are reared in each year by the bullfinch.

3. These birds soften the seeds on which they feed their tender nestlings in their own crops. The note of this sweet little bird is a twitter, or sometimes a short whistle, sounding like a tiny flute among the boughs.

4. There is no bird who is fonder of his children than the bullfinch. Two broods are reared by him during each summer, and they do not part from each other when the young ones leave the nest. The whole family of bullfinches—father, mother, brothers and sisters—fly together in a little flock.

5. Through the winter they feed on seeds of wild plants, destroying many weeds. And thus they do a great deal of good to the farmer. If

you look at the beak of a bullfinch, you will see that it is well fitted for crushing and bruising seeds.



MASTER BULLY.

6. But wise men who have studied the nature of this bird believe that it also eats insects. It is likely that the bullfinch eats small grubs,

flies, and eggs of insects too. So he is useful in more than one way.

7. But the bullfinch has another kind of work to do in the fields and hedges. When spring comes, after he has had nothing but dry seeds to eat for many months, the bullfinch hungers for the first green food. By nipping off the early spring buds which sprout from the trees he prunes them like a little gardcner.

8. He begins to feast on these buds, choosing the ones which have flowers wrapped up in them. He does not often touch the leaf-buds, though he does so at times. You may see a bush that was covered with fresh buds made quite bare in a few hours by these birds.

9. Sometimes he will stray into our gardens and orchards to do the same thing. But Master Bully makes a mistake then, for we do not want him there at all to look after our apple trees and gooseberry bushes.

10. Even when he nips the buds in the orchard or garden-bed, he does not always do so much harm as folks fancy, and many good gardeners are glad to welcome him. For the buds which he plucks off often contain a harmful grub. They would not only die, but unless picked off would allow the grub to become a flying insect, and lay thousands of eggs.

11. These eggs would in time turn to grubs,

and would do far more harm than any bullfinch. When this bird nips off buds which are healthy and have no worm inside, it does not always hurt the tree.

12. The gooseberry bush often bears a good crop of fruit after bullfinches have stripped the boughs bare. Plants put forth new buds, and are sometimes the better for having their first sprouts thinned out.

13. It is only for about a fortnight in the year that the bullfinch is tempted by the buds in our gardens. All the rest of the long year he is doing us good. So you see that we had far better leave him alone.

Questions : 1. Describe the bullfinch ? 2. How do these birds feed their young ? 3. What can you tell me about the nest and eggs ? 4. What does the bullfinch eat besides seeds ?

14. A CLEVER AND GOOD MOTHER MOUSE.

1. One summer day the sun shone bright,
'Mid sweet flowers roved the bee,
And I wandered in a garden old
Beside the deep blue sea.
2. But close at hand a shady path
Beneath some beech-trees wound,

And there, that sultry summer day,
A pleasant seat I found.

3. Suddenly, just beside my chair,
A little sound I heard ;

A scratch upon the gravel path,
As of a mouse or bird.

4. I turned my head ; there, on the path,
What strange sight did I see !

A little mouse, and in her mouth
Another still more wee.

5. Softly she crept across the path,
And then, her journey done,

In a hole beneath the green grass verge
She laid her little one.

6. And back and forth from side to side,
I watched her carry five

Sweet little mice, her own dear brood,
Long-tailed, and all alive.

7. She never wearied in her work,
Yet oh ! so small was she !

And thus, that bright, hot summer day
She moved her nursery.

8. Dear mother mouse ! My verse has told
Your patient loving deed ;
Methinks our boys and girls may learn
Some lessons as they read.

FRANCIS E. COOKE.

(MRS. SUCKLING'S "Humane Educator.")

15. BRAVE LITTLE PARENTS.

1. Of all brave little fishes, the stickleback is perhaps the bravest. Upon his back he carries a fin, and this is armed with ten sharp spears. But when I tell you how bravely he uses them to protect his helpless family, I am sure you will admire him and think that he makes a good use of his prickles.

2. The stickleback, or "tinker" as he is often called, is a very pretty little fish, which never grows to be more than two inches long, at most. His sides and back shine with bright colours, almost like those of a humming-bird. But his wife is dressed in pure silver.

3. He is to be found in almost every streamlet, and even in ditches and ponds where there is clean running water. He does not like stagnant or dirty pools, and will not live long in any place of the sort.

4. He cannot bear to be shut up and kept in a nasty bottle, or in a glass jar, or basin, or inside a house at all. For he wants to have fresh water to breathe, as much as we want fresh air. He wants to swim about fast, as children like to run.

5. He begins to get ill and to die slowly at once when he is taken from his own stream ; and though he may pine away for a long time, he is sure to suffer much before his small dead body floats on the top of the water in his jail.

6. It is very cruel, as well as stupid, to take him away from the brook, for he is doing a great deal of good there. Did you ever notice, on a hot summer day, all those swarms of gnats and stinging flies which dance and skip over the water?

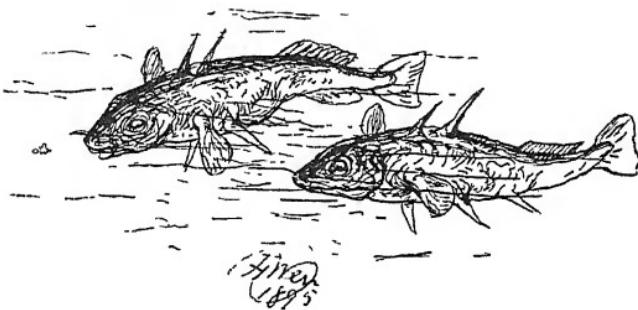
7. They often tease us very much, and some of them annoy sheep, horses, and cattle so much, that they do the beasts harm. Those flies are dropping hundreds and thousands of eggs into the water, as they flit above it.

8. They know that their young ones must begin their lives in the water. The flies' eggs are soon hatched, and little water creatures come forth from them, to swim about until the time comes for them to change into winged flies.

9. If all the eggs which flies laid in the water were hatched, and the little water creatures

coming from them were allowed to live, we should soon have a plague of flies. No water would be fit for men to drink, nor would the air be fit for us to breathe.

10. Both would be choked up with flies or with their young. But the little stickleback, and other tiny fishes which live by dozens in every streamlet, go on snapping up these young



STICKLEBACKS.

flies all day long. And they swallow the eggs of flies also.

11. So nobody ought to pull little fishes out of the brook for an idle reason. They are put there to do their work for the world. It is a shame to spoil their short, happy lives, for little fishes like to play as much as children do. And they enjoy being alive, when they are free.

12. It is wretched to see fish put into glass globes, where they can have no pleasure in living. We ought not to find pleasure in seeing any

creature where it is not happy. We must not feel joy at seeing them in pain.

Questions : 1. What does the stickleback carry on his back ?
2. What are the swarms of flies sometimes doing when they dance over the water ? 3. What sort of life do the creatures lead which come from these eggs of flies ? 4. What does the stickleback feed on ? 5. How does he use his spears ? 6. What ought we to find no pleasure in seeing ?

16. NESTS IN THE POOL.

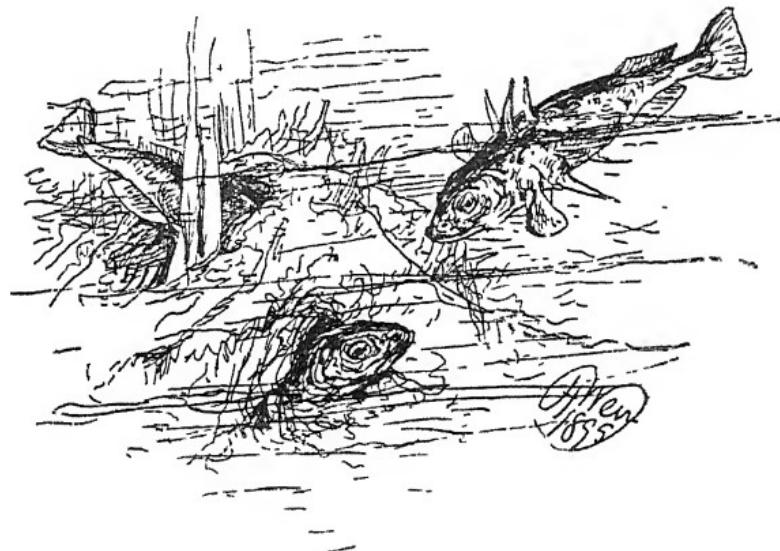
1. Did you ever hear of a fish who built a nest? There are plenty of fishes who do so, and the stickleback is one of them. What seems more curious still, is, that though it is the rule among animals that the mother takes care of the little ones, the father stickleback breaks this law.

2. He is the nurse of his children, their guardian, and their playfellow too. After she has laid the eggs, the mother-stickleback has no more to do with her young. She knows that she may safely leave them to her husband, who is a tender as well as a proud father.

3. He it is who builds the nest. It is made out of bits of water-weed, nibbled off by his sharp teeth, and sometimes fastened together with threads of tough root. Very neat and nice

it looks, not unlike a tiny muff, for it has a hole at each end.

4. The two holes are left because it is good for the baby sticklebacks, and for the eggs, to have a draught or stream of fresh water running through their house all the while. This keeps them in health.



THE FAITHFUL LITTLE FATHER.

5. After the faithful little father has built the nest, all by himself, he fetches his wife to look at it. And if she will not come, he drives her to the spot. She then lays her eggs. As soon as this is done, the small father-fish becomes very fierce.

6. Sometimes he stays inside the nest, with his head sticking out at one end and his tail at the

other, ready to pounce out on any other fish who may come too near his brood. Or else he hovers over the top of it, fanning the water with his fins, so that the eggs or young may always have a current of fresh water running towards them.

7. When the little sticklebacks first come from the egg, some of the slimy part of it still sticks to them. This makes them rather helpless at first, and the father watches over them with the greatest affection and courage.

8. If any fish comes to eat them up, he rushes at the enemy, without stopping to think whether the robber is twenty times bigger than himself or not. And by his bravery he soon drives away the foe.

9. Should any of his wee children be washed away by the stream far from the nest, or should they flit off on their tiny fins further from him than he thinks safe, the father-stickleback goes after them.

10. He takes them in his mouth, carries them back, and with a gentle puff sends them into their place again. He does this for about six days after they are hatched. When they are old enough to follow him in a little troop, he leads them to the feeding grounds.

11. And he scoops out little basins for them in the sand, where they may safely play while he is near. He teaches them next how to feed

themselves and go alone. But he fights all their battles until they are strong and able to take care of themselves.

Questions : 1. What does the stickleback make for his young ones ? 2. Who takes care of them then ? 3. What does the stickleback do for the eggs and young in the nest ? 4. What does he do for his young ones when they leave it ? 5. For how many days does he keep them near the nest ? 6. Where does he lead them ?

17. HOW DOES A FISH BREATHE UNDER WATER ?

1. There are many creatures which live under water, but which are not fishes. The whale is one of them, and so is the pretty little newt, which lives in our ponds and ditches.

2. The whale and the newt must come to the top of the water to breathe air every now and then, or else they would die. They are water animals, but not fishes. You know that we breathe by drawing air into our lungs and then sending it out again.

3. So does the fish. He cannot live without air any more than you or I could. But his lungs are very different from ours ; they enable him to get the air which he needs from the water with which it is mixed.

¹ The lungs of a fish are called gills, and

they are placed outside his body, and not in the middle of it. On each side of his head, not far behind his bright eyes, are two flat bony arches. These move when the fish is alive and well in the water, rising and falling as he breathes.

5. The gills or lungs of the fish are stretched across these bony arches. They are made of very thin plates of flesh, which look rather like the thin pink layers which you see underneath a mushroom, and which are called the mushroom's gills.

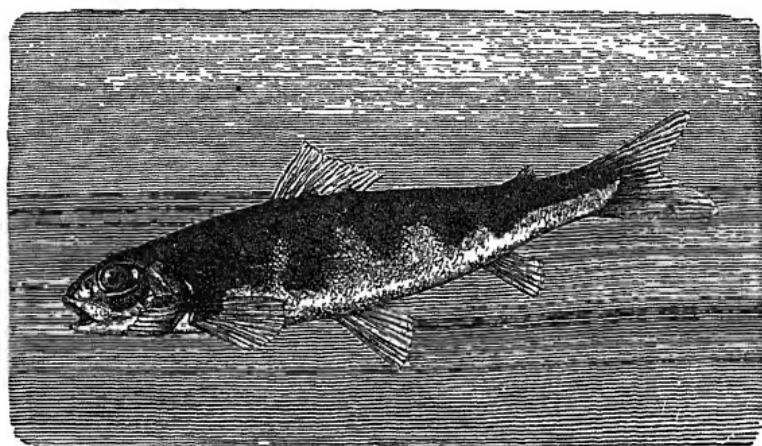
6. When the fish breathes, he draws water in at his mouth and sends it out again through his gills. As the water passes between the great number of thin plates, they are able to take from it that air which the fish needs in order to keep his blood pure. This air was mixed up with the water before.

7. The kind of air which all living creatures need in order to keep them alive is called oxygen gas. There is plenty of this gas in fresh, running water, but very little or none at all in stale, stagnant water, after it has been kept standing indoors.

8. The reason that fishes so soon grow ill and die when they are kept in glass globes, or in any water in a house, is because there is not enough oxygen for them to breathe in their narrow glass prison.

9. Out of doors the sunshine, the rain, and the fresh breeze keep streams and pools filled with oxygen. And the green plants which grow in the water send out this gas from their stems and leaves.

10. Indoors we cannot have all these things, nor keep our rooms open to the sky. And so



HOW FISHES BREATHE.

fishes are not happy or well there, any more than we could be happy and well in a place where we could not breathe properly.

11. The reason that a fish dies when he is taken out of the water, is not because he cannot breathe air, but because he can only breathe it when it is mixed with water. His lungs will not act unless they are kept moist.

lungs dry up, the delicate thin plates of his gills stick together, he cannot use them, and so he dies slowly. A fish out of water feels very much as you or I would do if either of us were being drowned.

13. Our lungs are not made for taking air from the water, so under water a man dies for want of oxygen. But the gills of a fish cannot take oxygen into themselves unless it is mixed with water; so the fish dies for want of oxygen too, when he is on dry land.

14. If it is needful to take a fish from the water, no merciful man or boy will leave him to lie panting on the bank. It is better to kill the fish quickly, if he must be taken from his home at all, by a blow at the back of the head.

15. But it never is needful to take fish from the water for amusement, or to keep them captive in our houses. It is as unkind to coop up a poor little fish in a small place not wholesome for him, as it is to keep a wild bird in a cage.

Questions. 1. What are the whale and the newt obliged to do? 2. What are the lungs of a fish called? 3. Where are they placed? 4. When a fish breathes what does he do? 5. How is it that fishes in glass globes grow ill and die? 6. If a fish must be taken from the water what ought to be done to it?

18. DOCTOR AND THE PIKE.

1. The fish is dressed in a beautiful silver coat of scales, like armour These keep his body from being soaked through. His coat of mail bends easily, so that he can turn or twist as he likes.

2. The young of fishes do not need their parent's care after the eggs are laid. They take pains to lay their eggs in the right spot, so that their young may be born in the place which is good for them. But some few fishes take care of their little ones after they are hatched.

3. A very wonderful but true story is told of a pike, or jack. This is a large fresh-water fish found in England. A gentleman named Doctor Warwick was walking one evening in a park near Durham, when he saw a very big jack in a pond.

4. This great fish caught sight of the doctor too, and took fright. The fish dashed away in a hurry towards the middle of the pond, and, as he did so, struck his head against a stump.

5. Poor thing! he cut his head open, and he also hurt one of his eyes. The fish was in dreadful pain. First he plunged to the bottom

then, finding that this did him no good, he threw himself clean out of the water on to the bank.

6. The doctor came up, and, looking carefully at the jack, found that a part of his brain was hanging out through the hole in his skull. The kind man very carefully and tenderly put the brain back into its place with a silver toothpick.

7. And he joined the broken bones as well as he could. After this he put the fish gently back into the pond. The jack stayed still while all this was done. The doctor then watched to see what would happen. At first the pike seemed to be all right.

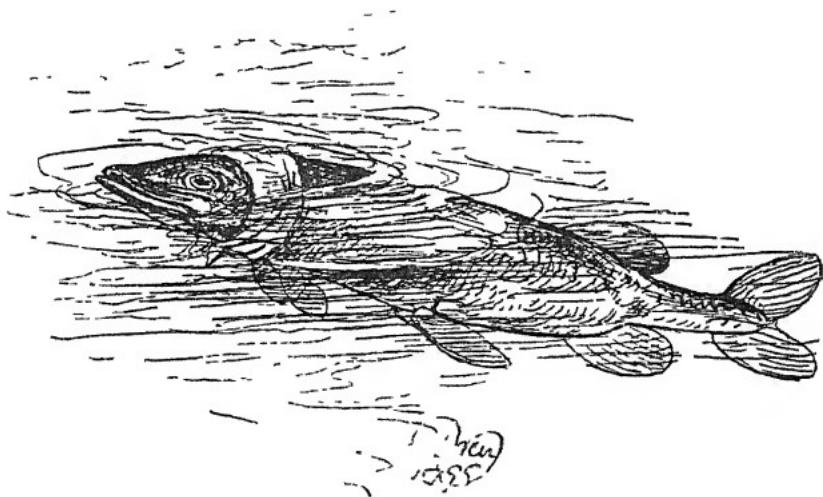
8. But after a time he again began to plunge about, and at last threw himself once more out of the water. He did so many times. At last the good doctor went away to fetch another man. With his help he held the pike firmly and put a bandage round his head.

9. The fish was then again put back into the pond and left to his fate. What was the surprise of the doctor next day when, as he was close to the pond, the pike came up and pushed his head close to the feet of his friend? The doctor looked at the wounded head, and found that it was going on well.

10. From that day the grateful fish always swam as near to the doctor as he could when he

came to the brink. When the man was walking up and down by the pond, the fish swam up and down too; turning as he turned, and keeping pace with him.

11. Little by little the pike became so tame that he would come when the doctor whistled

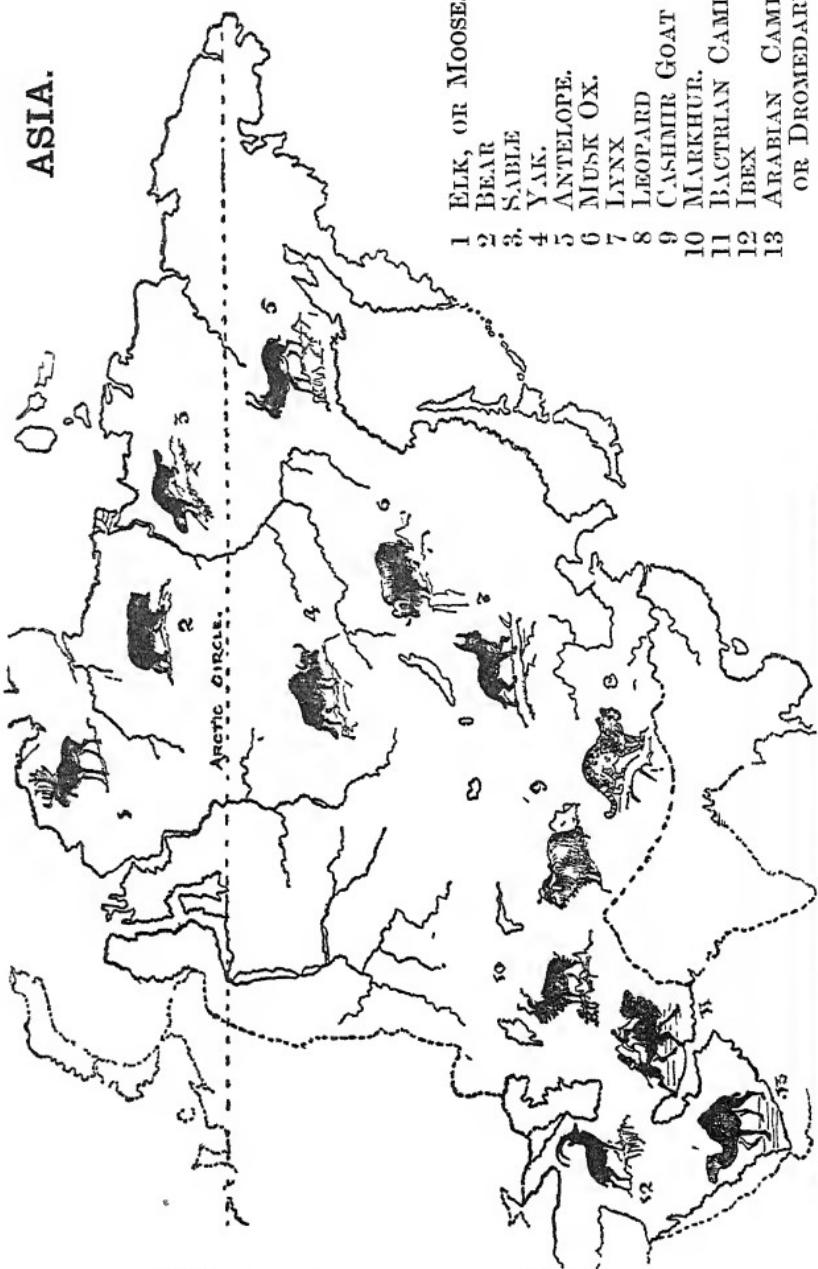


A GRATEFUL FISH.

for him and take food from his hand. This was the poor patient's way of thanking the doctor, whom he could not pay.

Questions: 1. What does a fish feel when it is pulled out of the water? 2. What did a doctor once see as he was walking by a pond? 3. How did the pike hurt himself? 4. What did the doctor do for the fish? 5. How did the pike behave while he was doctored? 6. What did the fish do afterwards?

ASIA.



ASIA.

1. The northern parts of Asia lie far within the Arctic Circle, while the southern portion stretches nearly to the Equator. It is the largest of the four continents.
2. It will therefore be seen that three different zones, and three very different climates, must be found in Asia. In the frozen plains of Siberia the animals are warmly clad in thick furry coats.
3. The Siberian rivers are rich in fish, especially the Obi and Yenisei. Its chief fur-wearing animals are the bear, lynx, fox, squirrel, sable, and badger. The flying squirrel and Malay squirrel inhabit India. Some of these creatures change their brown or dark coat for a white one in winter time should they travel further north.
4. This plan helps them to escape their foes when crossing the snow, as they are less easily seen. Through the table-lands in the middle of Asia, where the climate is more temperate, though the winters are bitter and the soil barren, wild oxen, called yaks, browse.

5. And active wild goats or sheep pick a scanty meal where our English flocks would starve, climbing wild hills where domestic animals could not find a footing. Among these are the Cashmir goat, Ibex and Mark-hur, or snake-eating goat. The yaks, as well as sheep and goats, are here used as beasts of burden.

6. The two-humped, or Bactrian camel, is very useful to travellers across the salt deserts of Persia, as it can live on food and water which no other creature would touch. Its relation, the one-humped camel, is equally helpful in his sandy Arabian home.

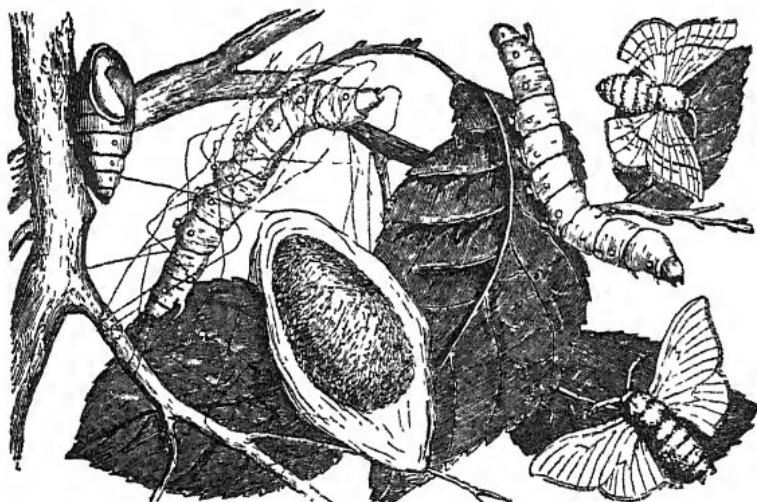
7. China is the native place of that busy little spinner, the silkworm, and almost every Chinese villager has his mulberry orchard and small silk farm. Miles of country are covered by these trees. The weight of silk produced yearly is about twenty-two million pounds.

8. The highest point on the world's surface is Mount Everest, one of the great chain which shelters India from the cold winds of Central Asia. It towers 29,000 feet above the sea level.

9. The forests of India or Hindustan teem with living creatures, and are decked with the most lovely flowers and ferns. The Bengal tiger prowls among these in his striped velvet coat.

10. Lions, leopards, monkeys, among which is the entellus or sacred monkey, and snakes in endless variety inhabit mile after mile of thicket so dense that human beings could scarce pass through. Upon the high lands of India, where it is cooler, sheep and goats feed. The nylghau or blue ox dwells in the woods.

11. A kind of crocodile, called the gavial,



SILKWORMS.

infests the rivers of India; and at the mouth of the Ganges, Indus, and others, sharks lie in wait for their prey.

12. Though reindeer and even dogs are used in Siberia for drawing loads, and so many other animals in other parts of Asia, there is no creature which can compare to the mighty elephant —man's grandest and gentlest helper.

13. His dwelling-place is the Indian jungle, whence he is brought and tamed. Owing to the wonderful strength and cleverness of this big servant, he can be set to do tasks which neither the horse, ass, dog, nor any other animal could perform.

14. And he is so faithful and honest that, as a rule, he can be trusted to do his work alone, without needing the master's eye. The elephant may be used for pushing loads, piling timber, or even as a builder.

15. These creatures are very proud and sensitive, and do not like to be found fault with. If an elephant has made a mistake or done wrong, he will do his best to hide it, like a naughty child.

16. An elephant was once busy building a wall. He had been taught to make a sign to his keeper as soon as a certain piece of his task was finished, that the man might come and see that all was right before telling him, by another sign, to go on with the next bit.

17. One day the elephant stood with his great body pressed against a certain part of the wall, and refused to move when the overseer wished to look at it. As soon as the master insisted on his moving, the elephant began pulling down the stones in a great hurry.

18. He knew that this part was not properly

built, and wished to avoid a scolding for the bad work. Does not this seem to show that elephants can think, very much like some boys and girls?

Questions. 1. In how many zones does Asia lie? 2. What is the highest mountain in the world, and how many feet is it above the sea? 3. What useful insect is found in China, and what does almost every Chinese villager keep? 4. Name some of the chief beasts of burden used in Asia. 5. What is man's grandest and gentlest helper? 6. Tell me the story of the elephant who did not want to be scolded.

20. THE ARAB'S FRIEND.

1. Almost as soon as it is born, the young camel begins to be taught how to bear burdens. Its keeper takes the little thing, while it is very small and weak, and he bends its four legs under it on the ground.

2. He then covers its back with a piece of carpet, and puts some heavy stones on the border of it, so that the baby camel cannot get up. When it is four years old, it is "broken in," that is, it begins to learn how to obey the word of command.

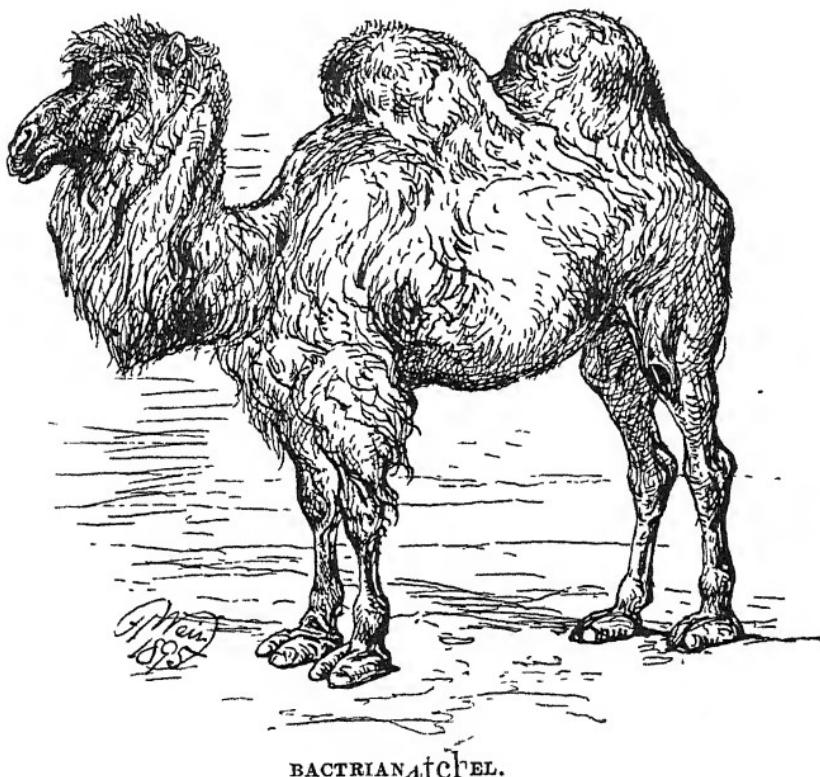
3 One of its front legs is lifted and tied up; the young camel then gently falls upon its knee, and in a short time it understands that it must kneel down when it is told.

4. The owners do not allow their camels to carry loads until they are three or four years old. From that time the life of a camel is a very hard one till he dies.

5. He is very patient, but he has sense enough to cry out and make a great fuss if his driver tries to put more on his back than he can bear.

6. He kneels down to be loaded, for he is a gentle creature, and does as he is bid; and he will consent to be loaded with as much as he can carry without hurting his back.

7. But if he feels that more than enough is being piled up, he shakes his head, gives a grunt, and starts up. It is as if the camel meant to say, "I am willing to do my best, but I will not be a slave."



BACTRIAN CAMEL.

8. It seems a pity that the horse and donkey do not speak out in the same way. The usual load for a camel is from six to eight hundred pounds, and with this he travels about forty or fifty miles a day, without complaint.

9. The swifter camels, on which one man only rides at a time, are called dromedaries, and these will run from seventy to one hundred miles in twenty-four hours. The Arabian camel is about six or seven feet in height.

10. There is another kind of camel, which has two humps. It is called the Bactrian camel, and it lives in Central Asia. This creature will feed on the harsh and bitter herbs which grow on the plains, and which no other animal will touch.

11. They will quench their thirst with salt water, and are quite as useful as the other camels. The female camel gives very rich and good milk.

12. She has a single young one at a time, and if she is going across the desert while her little one is too feeble and young to trot by her side, the little camel is slung in a net and is carried on her back.

13. To the Arab his camel is indeed a blessing. It is his beast of burden by day, and by night it makes a soft pillow for his head. It is his friend as well as his servant.

14. And when a storm comes in the desert he hides behind his camel, and the whirling sand flies over them both without hurting either. The camel has large lids to shut over his beautiful eyes, and he has nostrils which he can close

tightly to keep out the drifting sand when he likes.

Questions. 1. What is done with the young camel almost as soon as it is born? 2. At what age is it broken in? 3. What weight is a camel able to carry? 4. What will the camel do when enough has been piled on his back? 5. How far can a loaded camel travel in a day, and what weight can he carry? 6. What is the camel to his Arab master?

21. THE WILD MAN OF THE WOODS.

1. If you were passing through a thick wood in the island of Borneo, you might chance to meet a strange, dark, hairy creature, rather like a shaggy man. This is a big ape, or very large monkey, called the orang, or wild man of the woods.

2. He is quite at his ease among the branches of a tree, but he cannot move so well upon the ground. This great ape can stand almost upright for a minute or two, and then he is about four or five feet high. But some people say that he grows to be as tall as six or seven feet.

3. If you were to catch him on the ground, he would quickly try to get away. But as he cannot run swiftly while on his hind feet, he is soon obliged to give up his upright posture. He soon sinks down to grovel along as best he may.

4. Placing his fore feet on the ground, he tries

to get along upon his knuckles, as a boy might creep on all-fours resting on his fists. His arms are very long, and he uses them in turn to swing his body forward as a man does with a crutch.

5. As soon as he can scramble up a tree, he is able to travel with speed. The wild man never goes far from trees, if he can help it, for he knows that he is safer there than elsewhere.

6. He never seems to be in a hurry, yet when moving from bough to bough and from tree to tree, he can keep up with a man running below. When on his way through the forest he likes to journey along the larger branches the whole time, never touching the ground.

7. He stands nearly upright on one branch, and stretches out his long arms to take hold of the next. He swings himself along thus, but he is most careful to make sure that each bough is strong and not rotten, before trusting his weight to it.

8. His arms are nearly long enough to touch the ground on each side of him when he is standing upright. And they are of great use to him in plucking the ripe fruits over his head on which he feeds. He will not touch meat unless he is taught to do so. He always likes fruit better, and he will suck eggs.

9. The orang makes a sort of bed for himself to sleep on at night. This he does by

plaiting or weaving together the smaller boughs of trees into a kind of rough basket-work. It



AT HIS EASE.

forms a sort of flat couch or sofa. By way of mattress, he strews his bed with leaves.

10. Sometimes, in the daytime, he likes to lie in bed, and peep down over the edge, so that he may amuse himself by watching any people who

pass beneath him. When the orang has young ones, this wild man of the woods is said to sleep at the foot of the tree where his family are resting.

11. In this way he keeps guard. If any wild creatures come to attack his wife and children, he fights fiercely for them. Snatching up a stick he tries to beat his enemy, just as a man or boy might do. It is said that he also knows how to throw stones and dust at the foe.

Questions. 1. In what island is the orang found? 2. What is he often called? 3. On what does he like best to feed? 4. What kind of bed does he make? 5. How does he travel? 6. What care does he take of his family?

22. A YOUNG APE.

1. When the baby orang is first born, it is very much like a little infant. But as it grows older it becomes each year less and less like a human being. A traveller once found a baby orang lying face downwards in a swamp after its mother had been shot.

2. The man, who had a kind heart, pitied the poor little orphan, and took it up in his arms. The baby orang mistook him for its mother. Stretching out its tiny hand it took hold of the

man's beard with such a firm grip that he could hardly make it let go again.

3. When he was picked up, the toothless mouth of the small orang was full of mud; but



THE APE AND HIS DOLLY.

when that was washed out he began to cry sadly just like a real baby. So Mr. Wallace, the man who found him, took the young screamer home and tried to feed him.

4. It was unlucky that no milk was to be had

on the island; so the nurseling had to be fed on rice-water, from a bottle. This he sucked up by means of a quill put through the cork. A little box was fitted up as a cradle for him, with a soft mat to lie on.

5. The good man was very gentle and tender to his pet, and he washed it every day. The baby orang did not like this at first. But after a few washings he learnt to enjoy it. When he was dirty he would begin crying, and not leave off till he was carried to the water-spout.

6. He would hush his cries at once then, though he made funny faces all the while that the stream ran over his head. What pleased him best was the rubbing after his bath. And while his hair was being brushed he seemed perfectly happy.

7. He would lie quite still, with his arms and legs stretched out, so that the hair on them might get a good combing. As he thought that the little fellow must feel lonely without any mother, Mr. Wallace made a mother for him.

8. This was the skin of a dead animal, rolled up into a bundle. The young orang felt great delight when his stuffed mother was first shown to him. He could cling to it, kick out his legs, and always find some fur to catch hold of.

9. But the poor little thing was tired of drinking rice-water. He thought that the new mother

ought to find milk for him. So he was always searching the bundle of fur to find the right place for sucking.

10. This seemed so sad, that the sham mother was unsewn and taken to pieces. After that, another young monkey was found as a playmate for the baby orang. And the two soon became fast friends.

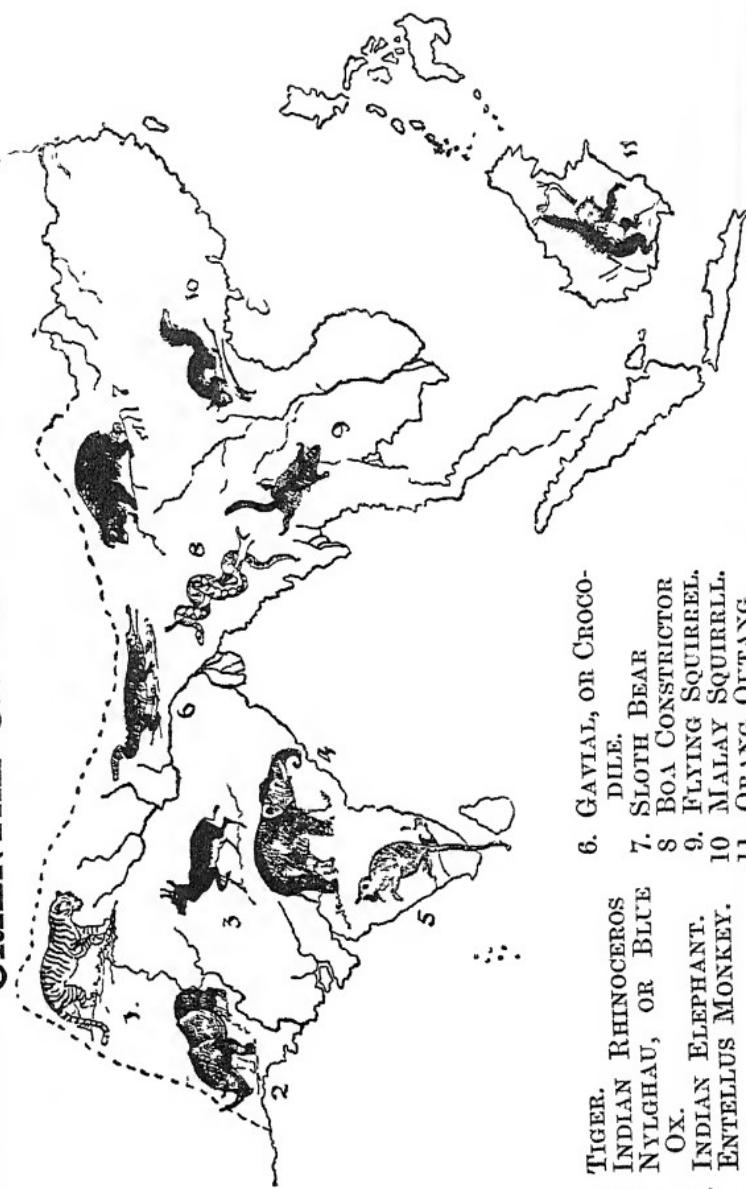
11. The kind man who took so much pains to save the life of this little creature was very much grieved when it died. Without its mother it could not be rightly fed, so it soon fell ill.

12. The wild man of the woods might be made almost as pleasant, useful, and friendly a comrade for us as the dog. But when brought to England he soon dies.

13. It is a mournful sight to see him languish and pine away in a cage far from his home among the green boughs. He leads a happy, harmless life there, but falls sick when he loses his freedom, and never lives long after being made a captive.

Questions : 1. When the young orang is first born what is it very much like ? 2. As it grows older what does it become ? 3. Where did Mr. Wallace find a young orang ? 4. In what way was it lying ? 5. What did he do for it each day ? 6. When brought from his own land what happens to the orang ?

ORIENTAL OR INDIAN REGION.



1. TIGER.
2. INDIAN RHINOCEROS
3. NYLGHAU, OR BLUE OX.
4. INDIAN ELEPHANT.
5. ENTELLUS MONKEY.
6. GAVIAL, OR CROCODILE.
7. SLOTH BEAR
8. BOA CONSTRICCTOR
9. FLYING SQUIRREL.
10. MALAY SQUIRREL.
11. ORANG OUTANG.

23. YOUNG LEOPARDS.

1. Two leopard cubs were once found together in a forest. Their mother was either dead or gone away. And so this little pair of babes in the wood were left alone.

2. Some kind person picked them up and carried them away. He made them a present to one of the negro kings who ruled in that part of the country. The two little cubs lived very happily in the palace.

3. But one day, as they were having a romp, one of the little brother leopards squeezed all the breath out of the body of his playmate by mistake.

4. Of course the other little cub was very sorry, and pined after his brother. He was given soon afterwards to an English master, who lived in a fort in the neighbourhood.

5. As soon as the leopard reached his new home, which was that of the governor, he was taken into the room where the family were sitting after their dinner. He behaved just as well as a cat or dog would have done.

6. When his new mistress spoke kindly to him, he jumped up, laid his great paws on her shoulders, and rubbed his head against her,

purring very loud. Sai, for that was this leopard's name, was led by a thin cord tied round his neck.

7. One morning Sai broke his cord, and ran away. But he did no harm at all. He only knocked down one or two children whom he met, by bouncing against them in play.

8. When he had been in his new quarters for



BABES IN THE WOOD.

a short time, Sai was allowed to run loose, for he was found to be gentle and harmless. He was always full of fun. One night Sai found the servant who had charge of him, sitting on a doorstep, fast asleep.

9. The leopard lifted his paw, and gave him a playful knock on the side of the head. And when the man rolled over, Sai stood wagging

his tail, and looking on as if he were laughing at the joke.

10. This leopard was very fond of his master, and one day when he was absent for a few hours, Sai wandered sadly about the fort looking everywhere for him. While the leopard was searching in great grief for his lost friend, the governor had come back.

11. He was sitting in his own room writing letters. All at once the master heard a great bounding noise coming upstairs. And, raising his eyes, he beheld Sai at the open door crouching for a spring!

12. The leopard's master now gave himself up for lost. He made sure that the savage nature of a wild leopard had broken out in Sai, and that the creature meant to kill him.

13. But no! instead of tearing the man to pieces, Sai laid his head close to that of his dear master, rubbed his furry cheek against his neck, wagged his tail, and seemed as if he could not do enough to show his joy at finding him again.

14. Sai was very fond of looking out at the window. He would sit there for hours with his chin on his paws. When the children wanted to look out too, and could not make him leave room enough for them, they would pull him down by the tail. But he loved them so well that he would not even growl at this rough play.

Questions. 1. What did a man find in an African forest? 2. What became of one cub as the two played? 3. What became of the other cub? 4. What joke did Sai play upon his keeper? 5. How did he behave on finding his master? 6. What used to happen at the window?

24. THE LEOPARD AND THE LADY.

1. Great care was taken, in feeding Sai, never to give him any living creature as a meal. His face was bright and full of good temper. He was always kind to children, and liked them better than grown-up people.

2. His beautiful spotted coat was sleek, and his sides smooth as satin. When his master and mistress came home to England they could not leave Sai behind; and yet they could not allow him to run as he liked about the ship.

3. So he was put into a strong cage, and then poor Sai's troubles began. He could not bear to be shut up; it made him sulky, and rather fierce too. He snarled at the pigs and at some monkeys which were on board.

4. But he was always loving and gentle towards his mistress. When she wished to give Sai a great treat she would let him have some scent to sniff at. Lavender-water was what he liked better than anything you could offer him.

5. He would snatch away a handkerchief from the hand of any person who came near him if it had scent on it, and tear it to bits. Twice



THE SCENTED HANDKERCHIEF.

a week his mistress would make a little cup of stiff paper and fill it with this scent.

6. She would put the little cup between the

bars of his cage. Sai dragged it towards himself in a most eager way. He rolled himself upon it, and would never stop till the nice smell was all gone.

7. By giving him this pleasure his mistress soon taught Sai how to put out his feet without showing his claws. She would ask the leopard to shake hands, and if he gave her his paw with the claws sticking out she would not touch it nor give him any scent till he drew them in.

8. In this way he soon learnt never to hold out his paw to his friends unless it were soft as velvet. It was difficult to find enough of the proper food for Sai on the long voyage home, and he nearly died on the way.

9. There were many black men on the ship, and it was not safe to let the leopard loose, for he did not like black men, though he was never cross or peevish to white ones.

10. When the ship reached London, Sai was glad enough to be put on shore. He was given as a present to the Duchess of York. She became very fond of him, and he of her. Until he could be taken to her own house, she was obliged to leave Sai at Exeter Change.

11. Here he was allowed to run about free, and was taken good care of. On the morning before the Duchess left for her own home she paid a visit to Sai, who was to be sent after her.

She played with her beautiful new pet, and was charmed with his good looks and sweet temper.

12 But in the evening, when her coachman went to fetch him, poor Sai was dead! The change from his own warm climate to a colder one, and the hardships on the journey, had been too much for him, and a disease of the lungs killed the pretty, playful creature.

Questions. 1. What were they careful never to give Sai? 2. What made him cross and ill on the voyage? 3. What did Sai's mistress give him for a treat? 4. How did she teach him to shake hands gently? 5. To whom was Sai given in London? 6. What made him die?

25. BOYS, DON'T THROW STONES.

1. Boys, don't throw stones!
That kitten on the wall,
Sporting with leaves that fall,
Now jumping to and fro,
Now crouching soft and low,
Then grasps them with a spring,
As if some living thing,
As happy as can be,
Why cause her misery?
It is foolish stones to fling
Boys, do as you'd be done by.

2. Boys, don't throw stones !
That squirrel in the tree,
Frisking in fun and glee,
Is busy in his way,
Although it looks all play,
Picking up nuts—a store
Against the winter hour.
Frisking from tree to tree,
So blithe and merrily,
It is cruel stones to fling,
Boys, do as you'd be done by.

3. Boys, don't throw stones !
That bird upon the wing,
How sweet its song this spring,
Perchance it seeks the food,
To feed its infant brood,
Whose beaks are open wide
Until they are supplied ;
To and fro, to and fro,
The parent bird must go ;
It is sinful stones to throw,
Boys, do as you'd be done by.

4. Boys, don't throw stones !
That stray dog in the street,
Should with your pity meet,
And not with shout and cry,

And brickbat whirling by ;
The dog's a friend to man,
Outvie him if you can ;
So faithful, trusty, true,
A pattern unto you ;
It is wicked stones to throw,
Boys, do as you'd be done by.

5. Boys, don't throw stones !
Creatures were made for good,
Though much misunderstood,
Each has its fitting place,
Of work and duty here ;
I think that you and I
Work not so faithfully,
As even the honey bee,
Or the wild bird on the tree ;
Promise no more stones to throw,
Boys, do as you'd be done by.

6. Boys, don't throw stones !
It can no pleasure give
To injure things that live ;
That beauteous butterfly,
The bird that soars on high,
The creatures every day,
That round our pathway play ;
If you thought of your cruelty,

You would not wish even one to die;
Only cowards stones will throw,
Boys, do as you'd be done by.—

(MRS. SUCKLING's "Humane Educator.")

26. THE RAVEN.

1. This bird is to be found in nearly every northern part of the world. Once he was not uncommon in England, but we are not likely to meet him now, in these islands. For the ravens have almost all been shot.

2. Yet in some wild places on the rocky sea-shore, or in lonely moors, this great black bird, like a big crow, might still sometimes be seen. It is a pity that men have killed nearly all the ravens in this country, for they are useful as well as amusing birds.

3. And it is owing to the good work which birds of this sort do, that men and animals are able to dwell in health on this earth at all. The duty of the raven is to clear from the ground bodies of dead creatures which are left lying about.

4. By doing this, the raven and his tribe prevent dreadful smells from spreading, which would make people ill. He has very keen eyes,

and can see a piece of carrion, or dead flesh, from a long way off. If a dead sheep lies in a field, the raven seems to smell it from miles away.

5. Though there may not be one raven in



A CLEVER THIEF.

sight when the sheep dies, in a few hours scores of these birds will be found on the spot in some countries. Besides eating carrion, the raven feeds on small living animals.

6. Farmers find rats a terrible plague in their

fields, barns, and yards. It is likely that this is because foolish people have got rid of the ravens which used to kill the rats.

7. Ravens also eat many harmful insects, such as the cockchafer. In short, the raven does good in two ways. He keeps the places near which he lives free from bad smells, and he clears them of rats and mice.

8. But because the ravens now and then sucked an egg, or did some small mischief, they have all been chased and shot. Now that they are almost all gone, folk begin to wish them back again. For they do more good than harm.

9. He is a merry, funny fellow, and likes to linger round a house as if he belonged to it. He will make his friends laugh by the tricks he plays. There is no need to cage a raven, or clip his wings, or to shut him up in a prison of any sort. So he makes a good pet. It is not kind to keep any animal, unless it can be free.

10. But those who have a raven for their play-fellow, must keep an eye on him. For he is full of play, pranks, and mischief. And, like the monkey, he is fond of hiding other people's goods.

11. A lady was once crossing a bridge on which a raven liked to sit. She happened to drop a gold bracelet as she passed over. Before she could turn round to pick it up, the raven made a pounce, and went off with it. He carried

the bracelet to some secret hole in a tree, where he put it away.

12. But as he let nobody know where his cupboard was, the lady never got her bracelet back again. Perhaps some day his storehouse will be found. And I dare say many other things will be seen there besides the lady's fine ornament.

Questions. 1. Where are ravens to be found now? 2. Where were they once not uncommon? 3. How does the raven find his food? 4. What does he feed on besides carion? 5. What did a lady drop? 6. Who picked up the bracelet?

27. THE RAVEN AND THE DOG.

1. Once a tree was cut down in which a raven had built her nest. The faithful mother-bird would not leave her eggs, even when the blows from the axe shook the tree. She must have known very well that it would soon come down.

2. Yet she sat still there, till at last the tree came crashing to the ground. And she fell also and was killed. It was a pity that the men did not leave the tree to stand a little while, so that this good bird might have been saved.

3. The raven is a sensible and grateful bird. He never forgets a kindness. By some accident a raven once fell into a tub of water, and was

nearly drowned. A dog, which was chained near, took the bird gently in his jaws, and laid him down to get dry.

4. After this the two became great friends. The poor dog, kept cruelly tied up all day, was thankful to find a playfellow, and fine games he and the raven had together. When meal times came, the raven would perch on the edge of the dog's dish, and take a share.

5. The dog never hurt this winged guest. But sometimes the sly black rogue of a bird would snatch up a nice bone or bit of meat in his beak; and flying beyond reach of the dog's chain, would tease him with it.

6. First he would hop up and hang it close to the dog's nose, and then dart off again. At other times, the raven would take pieces while the dog's back was turned. He would hide them under a stone, and then fly to perch on his friend's head with a cunning look.

7. But the dog never lost his temper with the raven. He knew that the raven always ended the joke by going shares, or giving the whole piece to the friend who had saved his life. The raven is a handsome bird.

8. His shining coat of glossy black glitters with rainbow colours when he is in good health. Though he looks as grave as a judge, he is never tired of frolic and fun.

9. At an old inn there once lived a raven which had been taught to call the fowls to be fed in the yard, and he could do this very well.



GOOD FRIENDS.

One day the dinner-table had been put ready for some people who were coming in the coach.

10. The cloth was laid, with knives, forks, spoons, mats, and bread. The door was shut, but the window was left open. Master Jacky,

the raven, had quietly watched the laying of the cloth from a tree in the garden, and he thought that he should like to do something of the same sort.

11. When the coach drove up, and all the hungry people went into the room, behold ! the whole table was bare. Nothing was on it but the cloth. But how they all laughed on looking out into the yard through the open window !

12. Upon a heap of rubbish outside, they saw the whole set of knives, forks, and spoons carefully laid out. And the raven was perched in the middle with a crowd of cocks and hens all round him. He had called them to the feast he had spread.

Questions : 1. What can you tell me about a mother-raven ?
2. What did a dog once do for a raven ? 3. What did the dog and bird become ? 4. What was the raven at an inn once taught to do ? 5. What did the raven see through the open window ?
6. What did he do at the rubbish heap ?

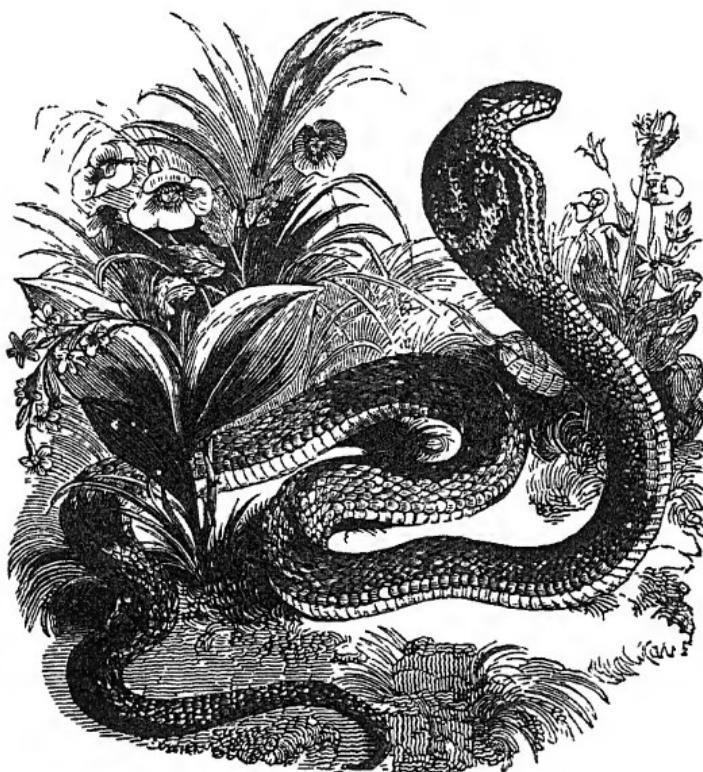
28. SNAKES.

1. The serpent is a creature which likes heat. The cold makes him sleepy and slow, and he never becomes brisk unless he feels warm. He creeps over the ground by moving the bones inside his skin.

2. The skeleton of a snake is one of the most perfect and lovely pieces of workmanship in the

whole creation. The bones form a chain-work of about four hundred joints, tapering towards the tail, and also slightly towards the head.

3. Each bone is fitted into the next in such a manner that the snake can bend and turn in any



A WARNING.

way, wind himself round and round, or crawl in and out of narrow, crooked holes.

4. The backbone of a serpent has curved ribs on each side, something like those of a fish. When he wishes to crawl, he pushes these ribs forward within his body in the same way that a

caterpillar pushes forward his legs when he is walking.

5. The scales or plates on the under part of his body catch hold of the rough ground and prevent him from slipping back. Snakes walk with their ribs, and can thus glide over the earth in the most easy and graceful way possible.

6. In India, and other parts of Southern Asia, the hooded snake, or cobra, is found, and its bite is very deadly. Yet even this snake is very loath to bite, and is easily tamed.

7. The cobra is harmless unless frightened or hurt, when he will raise the curious hood which lies on his neck and begin to hiss. This is a warning to his enemy that he is going to bite.

8. Cobras are very fond of coming near human dwellings, and they generally live in pairs. Where one cobra is found, his mate is sure not to be far off. The reason why he comes into houses is that he may catch the rats.

9. In this way he is very useful. All snakes do great good by eating small animals and insects which do harm to crops. In England we have many harmless and pretty snakes, which are friends to the farmer. The viper only is poisonous, and he will not bite unless you attack him.

10. The poison-fang of the snake was given him as a weapon for killing his prey, and he will not use it for any other purpose unless he thinks

his life in danger. Very soon a cobra, or any other snake, will learn to know those who are gentle.

11. A gentleman in India who always had large sums of money in his house kept cobras instead of dogs to protect his home. The snakes were a terror to thieves, as they glided about the house, but they never harmed one of the family.

12. One would think that no two creatures could be more unlike than a serpent and a dove, yet both the snake and the pigeon love their home so well that they will return to it from a great distance.

13. A tame serpent was once taken by some French soldiers from his master at Pondicherry and brought in a close carriage to Madras by the invaders. But the faithful animal found his way back again, though he had to travel a distance of about one hundred miles.

14. We must not despise or dislike this humble, crawling creature, for he has a place in the world and a work to do, and is, in his way, as useful in the wilds where he lives as any other animal.

Questions: 1. What does the cobra feed on? 2. Tell me how a snake crawls. 3. What creatures did a gentleman in India choose to guard his house? 4. How far did a snake once travel to reach his old home? 5. How many joints has a serpent in his backbone? 6. Why must we not despise or dislike snakes?

AFRICA.



1. OSTRICH.
2. "SPOTTED"
HYENA
3. CROCODILE.
4. HIPPOPOTAMUS.
5. GIRAFFE.
6. STORK
7. GREY PARROT.
8. HORNBILL
9. GORILLA.

10. ANTELOPE.
11. AFRICAN
ELEPHANT.
12. TWO HORNED
RHINOCEROS.
13. ZEBRA.
14. SECRETARY BIRD.
15. BABOON.
16. LEMUR.
17. LION.

AFRICA.

1. The ancient Romans once had a colony in the northern part of this vast land, which they called Africa. The name is now given to the whole of the huge continent.

2. As Africa is so large as to make nearly one quarter of the whole land-surface of the earth, we must expect to find animals of many kinds in it, as well as human beings of many races.

3. Wide tropical forests cover a great part of Africa, and these are the home of large apes, which swing themselves from tree to tree and pluck the sweet fruit from the branches. They look like wild, hairy men.

4. Hosts of merry parrots and hornbills of all colours, some grey, some red and blue, or clad in rainbow hues, make the woods gay with their chatter. Here the parrots are happy, for they are free. We do not see poor Poll look so cheerful in her cage in England!

5. In the north of Africa lies the largest desert in the world—the Sahara, which spreads its rainless wastes over about two millions of square miles. Across this dreary wilderness of sand no human foot could travel, nothing but the camel and the ostrich could venture on such a journey.

6. On the borders of the desert dwell many beasts of prey—the lion, leopard, and spotted hyæna,—while the swift-footed animals which they chase—zebras, antelopes, and giraffes—scud over the plains or find shelter in the woods. The lemur also lives in the trees.

7. Though Africa has not so many rivers as other continents, it can boast of the Nile, which, though narrow, is the longest river in the world except the Mississippi in North America. Other large African rivers are the Niger, the Congo, and Zambesi.

8. If you were walking beside the Nile, you might see the huge head of a crocodile lifted from the stream, and in winter time you might also watch some of our little English swallows dipping their breasts in the clear blue water.

9. Egypt is the winter home of many British birds, and when the Nile overflows its banks, which happens at stated times, year by year, thousands of storks, cranes, wild ducks, and other swimming and wading birds from all lands, crowd thither to feed on the frogs, fish, and other living things washed up by the water.

10. Some very large and grand lakes are found grouped together in that part of Africa through which the equator runs. Victoria and Albert Nyansa are the largest. In the African lakes and rivers the hippopotamus lives, spend-

ing his days in the water and browsing on the shores by night.



PRETTY POLL FREE AND HAPPY

11. The rhinoceros prefers the marshes by the river bank, though he likes to wallow in the

mud. Though Arabia is the true home of the camel, it is much used in Africa, and the ostrich wanders wild almost throughout the whole continent.

12. Many snakes are found in Africa, and in the southern part, in Cape Colony, there is a curious bird called the secretary, which feeds on them. You may be sure that he is welcome where he comes. The African elephant has larger ears and a rounder head than the Indian, and it is not so docile.

13. In Cape Colony large numbers of sheep and goats are reared for the sake of their wool, and oxen are used as beasts of burden, though a strong and fine breed of horses is to be found at the Cape.

Questions. 1 Where is the largest desert in the world, and what two creatures alone can cross it? 2. What animal lives in the Nile, and what English birds can be seen there? 3. Name three African beasts of prey 4. What animals are used as beasts of burden at the Cape? 5. How does the African elephant differ from the Indian? 6. What creatures are the prey of the lion in Africa?

30. THE LION.

1. The lion is nothing else but a very big cat. His shape is like that of pussy, though he is so much larger, and has a grand mane on his neck.

His feet and claws are made just like hers, only a hundred times as strong and large.

2. His eyes are framed so that he can see in



THE BIG CAT

the dark, and he creeps out to find a deer or antelope by night just as pussy steals out in search of a mouse or bird.

3. The creatures which the lion kills for his

supper feed on grass, leaves of trees, or other vegetable food. If there were no beasts of prey in waste places these browsing creatures would soon grow too plentiful.

4. They would eat up every green thing, and then be forced to starve. The lion and his tribe keep down the numbers of these grazing animals in the desert just as tame puss keeps our house free from mice and rats.

5. It is not cruel of the lion or of the little house-cat at home to kill smaller or weaker creatures for food. They must eat, and it is their nature to do it. What they do is for the good of the world as well as for their own good.

6. The lion does not kill because he wishes to be cruel, but because he is hungry. Is it cruel of you to eat your supper when you want it? No; but it is cruel to take the life of animals for sport. The lion does not kill for sport.

7. We ought not to find any pleasure in hunting an animal to death. Men who do so are more cruel than lions, who kill no creature but to keep themselves from dying of want.

8. The lion of South Africa sometimes measures ten feet in length, from his nose to the tip of his tail. He kills his prey very mercifully, with one mighty blow from his terrible paw. He will not touch the creature with his teeth till it is quite dead.

9. A traveller once saw a lion kill a zebra at a single blow of his paw. Instead of eating it, the lion looked around and gave a great roar. In a moment his lioness came trotting up with her little cubs.

10. But the mother lion and her children lay down quietly and waited till the father had taken his meal. Then they came up and ate their own supper. Many tales are told showing that the lion does not kill except to satisfy his hunger.

11. A poor black woman in South Africa once lost her two young children, and went out to look for them. At last she found the little ones going slowly along hand in hand over a wide, level plain.

12. And, to her horror, she saw a great lion walking behind them. The children took him for a big yellow calf, and were not a bit afraid. The poor mother knew that if she called the little ones and they ran to her the lion would pounce on them at once.

13. So she rushed up and placed herself between them and the great beast. Then she began to scold the lion, and to call him names. She shook her fist in his face, and tried to frighten him.

14. Now, I suppose that this lion had never been scolded before in all his life, and he did not like it. He had been used to seeing everybody

run away from him in a fright, and this was something quite new.

15. At any rate, he lay down, and stared at the woman without offering to touch her or the children. After a time he got up and walked quietly off, leaving the brave mother and her little ones in peace.

Questions 1. Why does the lion kill other creatures? 2. When are men more cruel than lions? 3. How large is the lion of South Africa? 4. What little creature is just like a small lion? 5. What did the male lion do after killing the zebra? 6. In what way does the lion kill his prey?

31. LIVINGSTONE AND THE LION.

1. Many men have fallen into the jaws of wild beasts, but very few have ever come out of them again. Among those who have lived to tell us what they felt while in the power of fierce animals was the famous traveller Dr. Livingstone.

2. He it was who began the attack, and not the lion. This noble brute seldom touches men unless wounded or greatly provoked.

3. After describing the manner in which he approached and defied the king of beasts in his desert home, Dr. Livingstone tells how the angry lion tried to defend himself against the two-legged foe who had dared to invade his lonely kingdom.

4. He says: "Starting, and looking round, I saw the lion just in the act of springing on me. I was upon a little height. He caught my shoulder as he sprang, and we both came to the ground together.

5. "Growling horribly close to my ear, he shook me as a terrier dog does a rat. The shock caused me to fall into a stupor like that which seems to be felt by a mouse after the first shake of the cat.

6. "It causes a sort of dreamy feeling in which there is no sense of pain or feeling of terror, though I knew quite well all that was going on. It was like what sufferers, who have been partly put to sleep with chloroform, describe, who see the surgeon using his knife but do not feel the cut.

7. "The shake took away fear, and after it I felt no dread in looking round at the beast. This is, most likely, the state into which all animals fall when they are being killed by larger flesh-eating beasts.

8. "And, if so, it is a merciful plan by which our kind Creator lessens the pain of death." After so sudden and fearful a shock, it is likely that the nerves and the mind cannot act together, and so no pain nor fear is felt.

9. A German nobleman also tells a story of how he was carried off by a Bengal tiger. He

speaks of being in the same state as that into which Dr. Livingstone was thrown as soon as he felt the teeth of the tiger in his flesh.

10. A sort of pleasant drowsiness stole over him, and he felt a mixture of sleepiness and curiosity to know how the tiger would begin to eat him. But at the same time his senses did not leave him, and he felt that he ought to try and make his escape.

11. The servant of Dr. Livingstone came to his rescue and shot the lion. As to the tiger that carried off the German nobleman, he suddenly dropped the man and ran off. The German, who was an officer in the Indian army, used afterwards to joke with his brother soldiers about the tiger:

12. He would say that the tiger had dropped him because, as he was a very thin man, the creature thought him too lean and tough to be worth carrying away. These stories seem to show that when one wild animal kills another for food, the victim's pain and terror are soothed and charmed away so as to be little felt.

13. It is sad to think that men only, with their guns, knives, and traps, should inflict cruel pain and torture upon innocent animals, and make a sport out of their lingering death.

14. Man chases, hurts, and kills other creatures to amuse himself; animals kill each other because they must do so or else die.

Questions : 1. What famous traveller was carried off by a lion ? 2. Who began the attack ? 3. What did Livingstone say that he felt when in the lion's grasp ? 4. From this story, what may we think about flesh-eating beasts and their prey ? 5. Tell me another story which proves the same thing. 6. Who are the only creatures that make a sport of inflicting torture and death ?



HE DROPPED THE MAN AND RAN OFF.

32. FARMER JOHN.

1. Home from his journey Farmer John
Arrived this morning safe and sound,
His black coat off, and his old clothes on,
“ Now I’m myself,” says Farmer John;
And he thinks, “ I’ll look around ! ”
Up leaps the dog, “ Get down you pup !
Are you so glad you would eat me up ? ”
The old cow lows at the gate, to greet him;
The horses prick up their ears, to meet him,
 “ Well, well, old Bay !
 Ha, ha, old Grey !
Do you get good food when I’m away ?
2. “ You haven’t a rib ! ” says Farmer John ;
“ The cattle are looking round and sleek ;
The colt is going to be a roan,
And a beauty too ; how he has grown !
We’ll wean the calf, next week.”
Says Farmer John, “ When I’ve been off,
To call you again about the trough,
And watch you, and pet you, while you
drink
Is a greater comfort than you can think.”
 And he pats old Bay,
 And he slaps old Grey ;
“ Ah ! this is the comfort of going away ! ”

3. "For after all," says Farmer John,
"The best of a journey is getting home!
I've seen great sights; but would I give
This spot, and the peaceful life I live,
For all their Paris and Rome?
These hills for the city's stifled air,
And big hotels, all bustle and glare,
Lands all houses, and roads all stones,
That deafen your ears and batter your
bones,
 Would you, old Bay?
 Would you, old Grey?
That's what one gets by going away!
4. "I've found out this," says Farmer John,
"That happiness is not bought and sold,
And clutched in a life of waste and hurry,
In nights of pleasure and days of worry,
And wealth isn't all in gold,
Mortgage, and stocks, and ten per cent.,
But in simple ways and sweet content,
Few wants, pure hopes, and noble ends,
Some land to till and a few good friends,
 Like you, old Bay,
 And you, old Grey,
That's what I've learnt by going away!"
5. And a happy man is Farmer John,
Oh! a rich and happy man is he;

He sees the peas and the pumpkins growing,
The corn in tassel, and buckwheat blowing,
And fruit on vine and tree;
The large kind oxen look their thanks,
As he rubs their foreheads and strokes their
flanks,
The doves light round him, and strut and
coo;
Says Farmer John, "I'll take you, too,
And you, old Bay,
And you, old Grey,
The next time I travel so far away."—

(MRS SUCKLING'S "Humane Educator.")

33. THE RIVER HORSE.

1. The river horse, or hippopotamus, is a native of Africa. He is always found in or near water. Though his legs are very short, his body is huge; he stands about five feet high.

2. His mouth has a set of great teeth inside it, so big that one of them might weigh from five to eight pounds. It is no wonder that the owner of such a mouthful needs a stout, thick neck and broad shoulders!

3. If he had not these things he certainly would not be able to lift his head from the ground. But these large teeth are harmless

enough, unless the river horse is wounded, or very much annoyed. He uses them for clipping



TAKING A BATH.

grass, which he cuts as neatly as if a gardener had mown it.

4. By cutting the grass and green herbs he makes them grow better. If it were not that some wild creatures live in this way, the lonely places where they live would soon be a tangle of dead and dying plants.

5. The hippopotamus can cut through a strong and thick reed or stem at a single bite. Sometimes he crops the water-plants. He takes the life of no creature for his food.

6. Big and lumbering as he looks, the river horse is gentle and peaceful. The only harm he does is in trampling down the corn and other crops near the banks with his big feet.

7. He steals a meal from the river brink as he strolls along beside it, but he is only doing his duty, and keeping in order the meadows near his watery home. He wants a good deal to eat, for he has an appetite as big as his form.

8. His stomach can hold five or six bushels of food at a time. And he likes to keep it well filled, without asking whose land it is on which he browses. It is of no use for the African farmer to bid trespassers of this sort to beware.

9. For, all day the hippopotamus takes a comfortable snooze in some secret chamber of his own, and comes out to eat his supper when the farmer is in bed. This animal is a fine swimmer, and can dive well, staying below the water for a long time.

10. He is able to sink down when he likes. And considering his vast size and heavy shape, it is a wonder to see how easily he rises again to the surface, to float or breathe. The thick skin which clothes his body keeps him warm and dry inside.

11. This hide is one inch and a half thick on his back, and three-quarters of an inch thick on the rest of his body. Yet it is so soft and easy to bend, while the animal is alive, that he can move about in his leather cloak with ease.

12. This great river monster is a tender parent to her young one. When the baby hippopotamus is first born, it cannot stay under the water so long as its parents. During the first months the mother takes it on her broad neck, and the little one stands there.

13. She carries it about with her in that way, sometimes beneath the surface, and she often holds her child up, so that it may poke its nose out of the water to get a breath of air. The river horses live in herds, and do not like to be alone.

14. Twenty or thirty of them may often be seen together, splashing about and snorting. They make a great noise when they snort, and seem to enjoy themselves greatly in their own river. They do not like the places where the stream runs swiftly.

15. It is very sad and dreary for the poor river horse when he is brought away in a ship to live in some wild beast show. He suffers much on the journey. And in his den he cannot have space to wander as he wishes or feed as he likes.

16. Though she is a most kind and affectionate mother in her native land, the captive hippo potamus mother sometimes kills her young one. She appears to know that it will grow up to lead a wretched life inside a cage, so she puts it out of its misery at once.

Questions. 1. How high does the hippopotamus stand? 2. How much may one of his teeth weigh? 3. How thick is his skin? 4. Of what use is he when wild? 5. What sort of mother is the hippopotamus when she is free? 6. Tell me what happened to the young hippopotamus in a cage?

34. CHIMPANZEES.

1. There are large black apes found in Western Africa called chimpanzees. They are more like human beings than any other creatures in some ways. The chimpanzee is covered with dark hair, and he likes best to live in trees.

2. But he sometimes stays a good deal on the ground, and in running over it he prefers resting the knuckles of his hand and feet to putting his

palms or soles flat on the earth, though sometimes he does so.

3. He cannot stand upright for many minutes. The food of these creatures is fruit, when they are free to choose their diet for themselves. When caged, they will learn to eat meat and other things, to drink from a cup, and to use a spoon.

4. In their own wild woods these apes collect into large troops, for they have found out that it is safer to live together than apart. So long as they keep in flocks they are able to drive off their enemies, the lion, the leopard, and even the elephant.

5. Chimpanzees will not attack men unless they are hunted and one of their number is hurt, when they will sometimes set upon the hunter and become very dangerous. It is said that they have sense enough to understand that the strength of a man lies not in himself so much as in his weapons.

6. They know that it is the gun and not the man which kills them. And a hunter may save his life by throwing down his gun when he is followed by an angry crowd of chimpanzees.

7. The raging apes will gather round the thing which has done the harm, and they will tear it to pieces, or bang it to bits, with every mark of fury. In the meantime the owner of the gun has time to get away.

8. There is no doubt that these curious animals make some sort of home or nest for themselves high in the trees. Some travellers have thought that they built a neat hut, with a roof to it. But this does not seem to be quite true.

9. A sort of nest is made for the female and young, and the male takes up his abode under it, partly for the sake of the shelter, and partly that he may be ready to defend his family.

10. When a number of chimpanzees travel from place to place, as they do to find fresh food, they often make a great noise by calling aloud to each other. Their voices sound much like the cry of a man in pain.

11. It is supposed that while free they live as long as the negro men which inhabit the same land. But if the chimpanzee is brought to Europe he cannot live many years, and these years will be spent in suffering. He cannot bear the change of climate.

12. This ape, when he is brought into a cold place, soon finds out the use of clothes. He will learn the comfort of wrapping himself up in a blanket or cloak. But that will not make the air fit for his delicate lungs to breathe.

13. His grave sad look as he muffles his body in a rug and peeps out at a hole in it, while he coughs every moment, makes him a piteous sight. Yet it is funny to watch him when new clothes

are given him. The chimpanzee knows very well when he is smartly dressed.

14. There was once an ape who, after a new and gay dress had been made for him, tore up his old garments, for fear that he should be made to wear them again. He hoped that when his week-day clothes were gone, he would be allowed to wear his Sunday suit every day.

15. Sometimes the chimpanzee has been seen carrying a stick as a man does. Like all monkeys, he is proud to imitate what he sees men do. But as he cannot stand upright long enough either to walk with his stick, or to use it, he might as well be without it.

16. Besides, his arms and hands are so strong that he can defend himself better when he is not holding anything. With his great rough paws, or hands, he can grasp a big branch and break it off at a single pull.

17. Two men tugging both together could hardly bend the bough which he can snap off in a minute. But after he has got it the great stick is not of much use to him. It is said, however, that the chimpanzee throws stones. In height he is often taller than a man.

Questions. 1. What is the food of the chimpanzee? 2. What do they find the safest way of living? 3. When do they become dangerous to men? 4. How may a hunter sometimes save his life? 5. What is the native land of the chimpanzee? 6. What happens to him when he is brought to England?

35. SALLY AND HER LESSONS.

1. A chimpanzee called "Sally" once lived for eight years in London. Sally was so clever a young lady that she learnt to count. She would try to answer her keepers when they spoke to her, and she learnt to understand many of their words.

2. She had three ways of replying to a question, or saying what she wished. These words of Sally's were three short grunts, each made in a different tone. By one of her grunts she meant "yes," by another "no," or, "I am not sure," and by the third Sally wished to say, "Thank you."

3. When she did not feel very well, Sally was rather cross. But, as a rule, she was most good-tempered and lively. She was fond of a joke, and would keep up a sort of play with her keepers nearly always. Sometimes she would yell and scream, and, springing to the bars of her cage, would rattle them fiercely.

4. This was because Sally longed to get out, and have a good scamper or a climb in the trees again. Poor Sally! How much better off she would have been in her own beautiful home far away, picking fruit from the trees and romping

with her friends. She might have reached a good old age there.



A FRIENDLY ROMP.

5. A learned man used to come every day to teach Sally her lessons. He wished to find out

how much apes could learn, and whether they ought not to be sent to school like little girls and boys.

6. Of course, he was most gentle and patient with Sally, or he would only have frightened her, and she would have done nothing. She was taught to pick up one, two, or three straws from the bottom of her cage and hand them to her master.

7. She soon found how to give him as many as five straws when he asked her for them, and when she had done her sum right a nice bit of fruit was given her. This made Sally take more pains next time. But when she was asked to count more than five or six straws it worried her so much that she could not do the task.

8. Sally used to do one thing which showed much sense for an ape. When she felt a little tired of picking up straws for her schoolmaster, she would take one straw, double it in the middle, and hold it out to see whether that would not do as well as two straws.

9. That looked as if she could guess that "twice one are two," did it not? though Sally had never learnt her tables. Her keepers tried to make Sally learn to count up to ten. But she often made mistakes when asked for so large a number of straws as that.

10. Sally also learnt to tell the difference between white straws and coloured ones. She

would pick out the white straws at once when asked to do so, and then she got a piece of fruit. But she could never learn to tell red from blue straws, nor black ones from yellow. Either she was too much puzzled, or her eyes did not notice the difference between colours.

11. A young chimpanzee was once brought to Berlin, where he lived in the room of his master. His favourite playmate was a little boy of two years old, with whom he was always gentle and good.

12. But when a number of older and bigger boys came to see him one day, this small chimpanzee thought, "Now for some fun. These fellows are as big and strong as I am. There is no need for me to take care of them."

13. So he ran from one to another of the boys. He shook the first, gave the second a playful bite in the leg, and seized the third by the jacket with his right hand while he gave him a box on the ear with the left. In short, he seemed quite wild at the sight of them. Perhaps he thought they were young monkeys.

14. When a party of young chimpanzees in the woods wish to meet and have a game, it is said that they call their comrades together by drumming upon any piece of wood which will make a loud sound with a stick, as a drummer-boy might beat his drum.

15. It is hard on the young chimpanzee to lose his freedom, but these creatures become very fond of those who are kind to them in prison. They do not seem to bear any grudge against those who have robbed them of liberty.

Questions : 1 How long did Sally live in London ? 2. In what way did Sally try to talk ? 3. What did a learned man teach her ? 4. How many straws did Sally learn to hand him without making a mistake ? 5 When she was tired of counting straws what did she do ? 6 What can you tell me of the young chimpanzee and the schoolboys ?

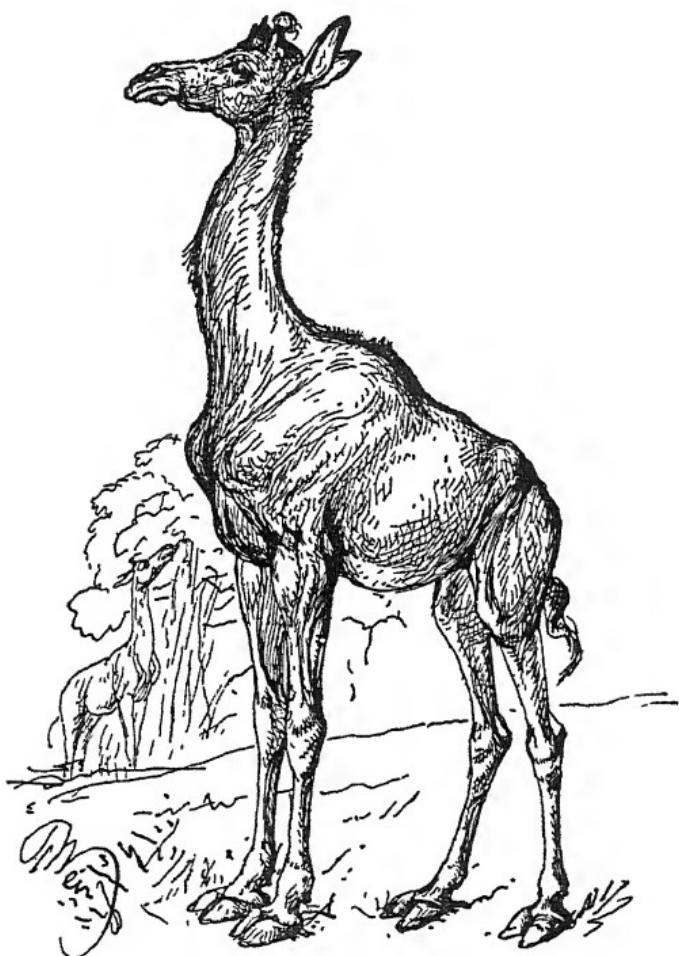
36. THE GIRAFFE.

1. If you and I had to get our breakfasts from the tree-tops, we should certainly want a ladder. But the giraffe, whose favourite food is the leaves of a kind of acacia called the "camel-thorn," can browse comfortably on the topmost shoots by means of his long neck.

2. Though his gaily-spotted coat looks very showy when he is brought here to England, the bright dappled markings help to hide him when he is at home in his South African forest.

3. As he stands among the clumps of trees which are covered with patches of brilliant sunshine and dark shade, travellers often mistake his mottled skin for one of those sunlit trunks, and so pass him by.

4. This is a good thing for the giraffe, for though he is so gentle and harmless an animal,



THE TALLEST OF ANIMALS.

many men are cruel enough to enjoy spending their idle time in hunting and killing him.

5. The giraffe is the tallest of all living creatures, and yet he has the same number of

bones in his neck as the elephant, the horse, or the mole. Each creature is fitted for the place in which it lives, and is framed so that it can feed comfortably.

6. And the seven neck bones of the giraffe are each very long, so that he may easily reach what is above him, while the seven neck bones of the elephant are short, for he can stretch out his trunk to get what he wants.

7. His long, delicate tongue, which the giraffe curls round the leaves of trees, helps him to pick out the freshest and greenest of them. He never touches a single thorn, but feeds most daintily on the young shoots.

8. A full-sized male giraffe may stand twenty feet high; so that when he browses on the flat tops of bushes fifteen feet above the ground, he must stoop his neck. His fore-legs are no longer than his hind ones; but his high shoulder-blades make them look so.

9. He can feed on the grass at his feet if he likes, but then he must straddle his front legs wide apart. The eyes of this graceful animal are large, soft, and dark like those of a deer.

10. Sir Samuel Baker, the great traveller, says, that "there is nothing to compare with them in beauty through the whole animal creation." Though he was himself very fond of shooting and killing wild animals, he would

never destroy a giraffe, unless he and his servants were in distress from want of food.

11. He said, that "to destroy creatures so lovely was an act of wanton cruelty, which nothing but sore need ought to drive a man to do." When lying wounded on the ground the giraffe will gaze at the cowardly sportsman who has wounded it with eyes so full of reproach as to melt the hardest heart.

12. How can any man find pleasure in giving pain or taking the life of this innocent creature ! When running across rough ground the giraffe can often escape the hunters, for it leaps along where no horse could run. On level ground it has little chance of saving itself.

Questions : 1. What does the giraffe use as a ladder ? 2. What is his favourite tree ? 3. How does he use his tongue ? 4. Name the number of bones which form the neck of the giraffe and tell me two other animals which have the same number. 5. What did Sir Samuel Baker say of the eyes of this creature ? 6. Of what use is the spotted coat of the giraffe to him ?

37. THE OSTRICH.

1. The natives of Africa call this bird "the camel of the desert," for it is at home in sandy places as the camel is. Like the "ship of the desert," the ostrich has a foot well fitted for running or standing upon loose, dry sand.

2. Its toes are broad and fleshy, so that it does not sink in as a horse would. The ostrich is able to live for a long time without drinking, though it is very clever at finding water where no other creature but the camel could.

3. Though his wings are so small that they cannot raise his body from the ground, with them they help the bird to run swiftly when he flaps them, or he will spread them out, like a couple of small sails, against which the wind blows and increases his speed.

4. Wild ostriches are found in nearly all the desert places of Africa, feeding on the cool, juicy melons which are mercifully scattered over the parching, sandy wastes for the refreshment of man and beast.

5. Besides this, the ostrich feeds as our poultry do, upon any insects, or even tiny animals, which it finds on the ground. The nest of the ostrich is about three feet across, and by day the mother bird sits on it.

6. Her feathers are of a soft gray-brown, and while she is sitting she takes care not to lift her long neck up so as to be plainly seen, but she tries to hide it by sticking it straight out in front of her.

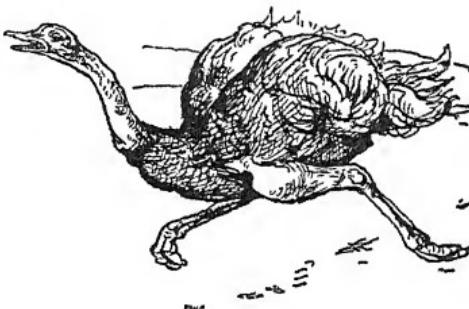
7. The dusky colours of her back are very much of the same hue as the place on which she sits, and as she keeps very still on the top of her

nest, any passer-by might mistake her for an ant-hill, or mound of earth.

8. Her mate has handsome black and white plumes, which make him a more showy bird. But he takes his turn at helping his wife to hatch by night, when his brighter feathers do not show.

9. In the morning, when the pair of nurses change places, the mother, whose turn it is to sit, takes great care how she comes up to the nest. She is afraid that somebody will watch her, and find out where it is.

10. So she does not run straight up to the spot where her eggs are, but begins feeding in a circle round the place. By little and little she draws nearer to the nest till she comes close to it.



LONG STRIDES.

11. Then the male gets quietly up and at once runs to a distance. When the ostrich is taking a good run each of his strides will cover fifteen feet of ground, and his toes scarcely touch the earth at all.

12. The eggs are used as food by the Africans, and the shells as drinking cups. In that dry

land, where water is so scarce, it is often collected in ostrich egg-shells.

13. A black woman carries it to the village from the sandy pools. She will make a hole as deep down in the sand as her arms can reach, and into this she plunges a long hollow reed, with a bunch of grass tied to the end of it.

14. As soon as the water begins to gather in the hole she sucks it up through the reed, the grass acting as a filter to keep out the sand. Then, through another reed, she empties the water from her mouth into an egg-shell.

15. As each shell is filled the hole is carefully stopped up with grass, and it is buried in the sand to keep it cool. We may be thankful that we live where we can have as much fresh water as we like, without its passing through somebody else's mouth first!

16. When the black men wish to have the feathers of the ostrich they are obliged to get within reach of the birds by a trick, dressing up like one of them, and creeping close to the flock.

17. When the Bushman is within arrow-shot he quickly brings down the ostrich. This seems cruel, but it is better for the birds to die quickly than to be kept on ostrich farms, where their feathers are sheared off or plucked out each year.

18. This cannot be done without suffering or

danger to the birds and to the men who do it, and so it will be a good thing when people leave off wearing ostrich plumes.

19. Such things as fur and feathers, since they cannot be had without causing pain or death to innocent creatures, seem fit only for savages to wear, who know no better.

Questions. 1. What do the natives of Africa call the ostrich? 2. In what way is it fitted for crossing sandy deserts? 3. How does the mother ostrich try to hide her nest and herself? 4. What use is made of ostrich eggs and their shells in Africa? 5. How do the Bushmen shoot ostriches? 6. Why will it be a good thing when people leave off wearing fur and feathers?

38. THE CROCODILE.

1. Who would guess that such a creature as this was of any use in the world? Most people think of the crocodile as a fierce and terrible monster, to be killed whenever it is found. And yet, in the hot countries where he lives, people would suffer much without his services.

2. He it is who, by eating up all kinds of foul and impure things, helps to keep the marshes or rivers clean and wholesome, and the air around fit for men to breathe. Many a plague or outbreak of fever has been warded off by creatures like him.

3. The vulture, jackal, and hyæna purify the places where they live by devouring dead carcases, and the crocodile keeps the scorching banks of the Nile from being defiled and its air from being tainted by evil smells.

4. When pressed by hunger the crocodile will catch fish or other living things. But more often he smells a dead horse or sheep floating down the flooded river and seizes that. Lying with his nostrils only above water, he hides his body beneath its surface.

5. In this way he is ready for floating prey or to lie in wait for creatures which come to drink from the stream. As soon as he has seized his victim, he holds it under water till it is drowned. But how is it that the water does not run down his own throat and drown him too?

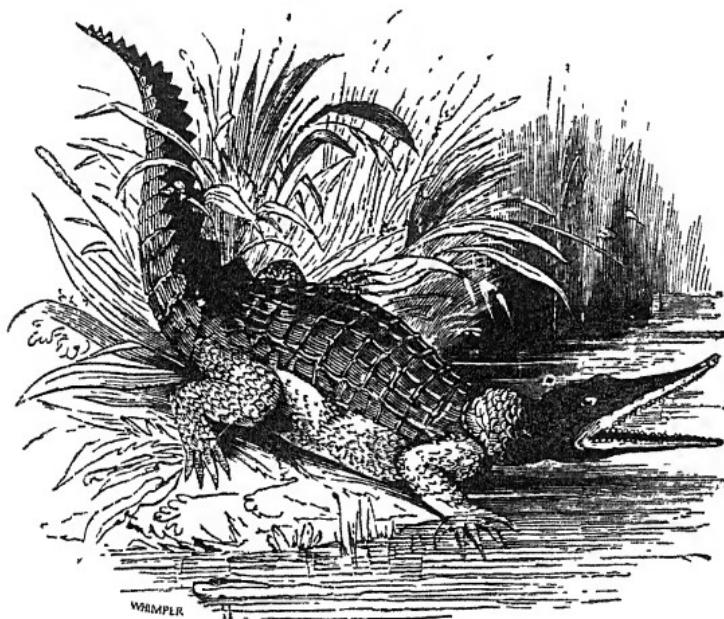
6. The crocodile has in his throat two thin valves or folding doors, which keep the water back. He can hold his mouth wide open under water and never swallow a drop. He goes on breathing through his nostrils, the passage from which opens behind his valves.

7. When he shuts his mouth the valves open and let him swallow his food. The body of this great water-lizard is covered with strong horny plates, like a coat of mail.

8. The eggs of this creature are about as large as those of a goose, and a great number of them

are laid at a time in some place where the heat of the sun will hatch them.

9. Many creatures search for and eat these eggs, or there would be swarms of young crocodiles. Sometimes the water in which the crocodile lives dries up, and then he must go on his travels in search of a new home.



A USEFUL FELLOW.

10. Often he buries himself deeply in the mud and waits till rain falls. An officer once pitched his tent on what had once been the bed of a river, but which was now parched and dry ground.

11. In the middle of the night he felt the earth below him heaving up as if something

were moving beneath. In the morning he found that he had been asleep on the back of a crocodile!

12. Though this animal does not look very amiable or kind, it has one faithful friend, a little bird, which runs into its open mouth to catch the stinging flies which tease the crocodile and drive him nearly mad.

13. It is a kind of plover, called the "Nile bird," who does this good deed for the crocodile, and it does not seem a bit afraid of the great grinning jaws and terrible teeth.

14. Even the crocodile, you see, has sense enough to know that the brave little plover means well towards him, and shows his gratitude by never hurting a feather of his wing.

Questions. 1. Of what use is the crocodile? 2. Name a river which it inhabits. 3. How is the crocodile able to hold his mouth open under water without being drowned? 4. Tell me the story of the officer. 5. What friend has the crocodile? 6. What does the crocodile show by his treatment of the plover?

39. CANARIES.

1 Rather more than three hundred years ago, a ship was wrecked near the island of Elba. On board of it were a number of little green birds, very much like our English green-

finches and linnets, which are to be seen in almost any field.



CANARIES AT HOME.

2. These had been caught in the Canary Islands, and were being carried away to be sold at the end of the voyage. Poor little birdies!

How glad they were to find themselves free once more! They flew off to the shore, and settled themselves to sing and build in the woods.

3. But they had better have kept silence, for their merry notes drew men to the spot, who caught them a second time, boxed them up in cages, and sold them into slavery. The birds after a while then changed their colour from green to yellow, but some are still partly green.

4. Ever since that time canaries have been a captive race. They will lay their eggs and rear broods in a cage, and so the little birds, being born there, have not to bear the pain and terror of being caught in nets, as other cage birds must do.

5. But still, the canary in his cage, no matter how well people try to feed and love him, would gladly change places with any humble little brown linnet who chirps his song free in the trees, and can pick up the proper food which will keep him in good health.

6. The canary is often ill in his fine jail, because he cannot have exercise and change of food when he wants these things. Then, from being kept in a close room, instead of living in the fresh air, he grows delicate.

7. Cage birds often have sore feet, bad lungs, and much painful sickness to bear of which

free birds know nothing. We must not fancy that because a bird is singing in his cage that he is happy. Birds sing sometimes from other reasons.

8. Often a poor little canary shouts in his cage because the sun is beating down on his head. He has no other way of saying that it troubles him. Birds do not like bright sunshine on them all day long; they take shelter among the cool green leaves during the hottest part of the day.

9. They like to sip fresh water, to bathe in it, and to take now a bit of green food, then an insect, and next a seed, just as it suits them. But in a cage they can only have what people choose to give them.

10. How often we see unhappy little canaries shut up in cages with nothing but a pinch of dry seed, from one week's end to another, and a little, dirty, stale water! In his own home, the canary feeds on many herbs; especially he is fond of the pretty gay nasturtium plant.

11. He enjoys nibbling not only the leaves, but the flowers, buds, seeds, and stems. The little mother canary would like to get away to build her nest, and keep it to herself, instead of having her secrets pried into by every one round her.

12. This shows that she has not forgotten the

joys of wild birds. A man once had a canary who made her nest in a box inside the cage. She laid one egg in it, but he took it away because he did not wish her to rear young ones at that time.

13. But the little mother made a plan in her head by which to avoid having her eggs stolen. She went on laying an egg each day, and she hid one in each of the corners of her box, covering them up so that no one should find her treasures. So, one morning when her master came to visit the canary, he found her sitting proudly upon them all.

14. No comforts which we can give birds in a cage can make up to them for the loss of freedom. Could anything keep you well and happy if you were not allowed to use your legs, or go beyond one small room? You would feel ill, sad, and gloomy. So does the bird, only it is worse for him, because you have no wings, while he was made on purpose for flying.

Questions: 1. What accident first brought canaries into Europe? 2. What English wild birds are very much like canaries? 3. Why is a linnet or greenfinch in the hedge better off than any caged canary? 4. What difference does caging a bird make to its health? 5. How did the canary in her cage try to save her eggs? 6. Name a plant of which canaries are very fond.

40. STORY OF A THRUSH'S NEST.

A pair of thrushes built their nest between two gardens in a London suburb. These were divided by a wooden fence with wire netting above it, and against one of the stakes which supported the netting their nest was placed. Those who lived on both sides agreed to protect the birds. As the spot could be reached by cats, more netting was placed above the fence and around the stake. While this was being done, one of the old birds looked on and chattered his thanks. All four young ones were reared and flew away, but one comes back to its birthplace to be fed from time to time.

1. "Would you like to hear the story
 Of the nest we built last spring,
 While here upon this swaying bough
 I rest my weary wing?"
2. 'Twas a very hard time for birds
 In the winter frost, you know;
 Often for dinner and supper
 We did not know where to go.
3. It does not take much to feed us,
 And London is rich, they say,
 Yet the poor little thrushes were starving,
 And perishing day by day.
4. But the spring came pleasant and smiling,
 And hope filled each feathered breast,
 And we looked in the small straight gardens
 For a place to build our nest.

5. And we found by watching and waiting
A spot free from bustle and noise,
With none of those dangerous creatures,
I think they call them *boys*.
6. And then from the early morning
Till the sun went weary to rest,
How we toiled, flying hither and thither
To make a soft warm nest.
7. Then the joy of the happy moment
When the first low chirp was heard,
And the bliss when they left their cradles
Each yellow-beaked clamouring bird.
8. Oh! they were such beautiful nestlings,
I should like to have shown them to you—
There never were any so lovely—
You may laugh, but I know 'tis true.
9. The people around us were harmless,
Though they seemed inclined to pry
Into our home—one meddling near,
Under my very eye.
10. I sat on the bough above him,
And told him my mind quite plain,
But he did not take any notice,
Nor answer me back again.

11. They meant well, I do not doubt it,
 They cannot know much, poor things—
What can you expect of creatures
 So grovelling, they never have wings ?
12. And they must have given their orders
 To the cats to keep away,
For our young were safely fledged, and one
 Has come back many a day.
13. They did right as far as they knew it;
 On the pathway they scattered food,
And they gave us their few ripe cherries,
 So I think we may call them good.
14. If the birds they still treat kindly
 Perhaps they'll grow wings one day ;
Poor things ! How happy 'twould make
 them,
I heartily wish they may."

JANE BUDGE. ("Humane Educator.")

NORTH AMERICA.



1. POLAR BEAR.
2. ARCTIC GULL.
3. CARIBOU, CANADIAN REINDEER.
4. PRONGHORN ANTELOPE.
5. "BIG HORN," THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN SHEEP.
6. FOX.
7. RACCOON
8. GREAT GREY SQUIRREL.
9. BISON.
10. PRAIRIE MARMOT.
11. SKUNK.
12. MEXICAN COATI MONDI
13. ARCTIC, OR WHALEBONE WHALE.
14. FUR SEAL
15. COMMON SEAL.

AMERICA.

1. Every kind of climate is to be found in America, for while its northern shores are washed by the Arctic Ocean, its most southern point, Cape Horn, is cooled by currents from the opposite pole, the land lying between being partly in the torrid and partly in the temperate zone.

2. The creatures dwelling in the two great tracts of land which are joined by the Isthmus of Panama, named North and South America, are as different from each other as the places which they inhabit.

3. Few living creatures but the polar bear could live all the year round on the dreary ice-bound shores of Greenland. They are, however, visited by seals, on which he feeds, by huge whales, and by the arctic gull in search of his food.

4. The long chain of hills called the Rocky Mountains is the home of a wild sheep, called the "Bighorn," on account of its long horns, curled like those of a goat.

5. Herds of bisons, or American buffaloes, once roamed along the banks of the Mississippi, the longest river in the world. But these wild oxen are fast becoming extinct, and are now rarely found except in the regions of the far west.

6. Across the forest streams which feed the Missouri river, beavers still build their mud huts and make their clever bridges or dams. And in the rich soft soil, which makes it easy for him to dig, the pretty little "prairie dog" scoops out his village.

7. There is nothing of the dog about this small fellow but his bark. He is half squirrel, half marmot, and looks not unlike a rabbit who has changed ears with a rat.

8. The collection of burrows made by the prairie dogs is of the same nature as a rabbit warren. The dog-town has streets and roads which are kept free from holes.

9. At the mouth of every burrow is a little heap of earth, upon which the master of the house sits to look about him. They have a ruler or king called the "big dog," who mounts his heap and gives orders, which all the rest obey.

10. So long as the prairie dogs feel safe, they go about their business of munching food or stowing it into the pouches in the cheeks. But should any danger draw near, the alarm is at once given by a short, sharp yelp, like that of a small terrier.

11. So soon as the rest hear this signal from their watchman, they disappear amid a whisking of tails and skurrying of feet. After a few

minutes bright eyes peep out again, and one prairie dog after another ventures forth.

12. A cruel sportsman once shot a prairie dog as it sat upon the heap at its own front door. One of its friends, who had not dared to face the man and his gun before, at once stole out, seized its comrade, and dragged the body into



PRAIRIE DOGS' VILLAGE.

the hole. The hunter was so much touched by this, that he never shot a prairie dog again.

13. The burning heats of South America give birth to millions of splendid butterflies. No less than 200 kinds of humming birds are found here.

14. This continent has also a large bird, called a rhea, which has three toes only. It is some-

thing like the African ostrich, but only about half the size. Vultures, eagles, parrots, and spider monkeys are found, as well as the puma, jaguar, fox, racoon, pronghorn, antelope, coati-mondi, marmozet, and vampire bat.

15. The forests teem with reptiles ; among them is an enormous kind of boa constrictor, which measures twenty feet in length. Alligators inhabit the swamps, turtles bask on the seashore, ant-eaters, tapirs, and other animals too numerous to be named, people the lonely wastes.

Questions: 1. What creatures inhabit Greenland ? 2. What others visit its shores ? 3. Where is the bison found ? 4. What animals live on the Missouri river ? 5. Describe the village of the prairie dog. 6. What made the hunter determine never to shoot another prairie dog ?

42. POLAR BEAR.

1. Many ships manned by brave sailors have set out to try and force their way across the Arctic Ocean, through the frozen seas of the North Pole, to the northern parts of America.

2. But that dreary region, where the sun hides his face for months together, is so much blocked up by huge masses of ice, that no ship has yet succeeded in sailing within four hundred

miles of the Pole, though hundreds of lives have been lost in the attempt.

3. Neither can any animal endure the intense cold of these dreary realms, unless fitted by nature to do so, as the polar bear and some few creatures of the seal tribe are.



IN FUR BOOTS.

4. Even the seal and his relations go further south during the arctic winter, the polar bear alone can stay there through the whole year. The splendid shaggy coat of cream-white fur in which this bear is wrapped, keeps his body from being chilled.

5. His feet are shod with hair with the double

purpose of keeping his toes warm and making him able to tread on ice without slipping. His food consists in summer time of seals, which make breathing holes for themselves in the ice.

6. The polar bear is very clever at finding these holes, even when they are covered with a film of snow. He finds his prey by scenting it. Or, when the sea is partly clear of ice, he will catch fish, for he can swim and dive very well.

7. Sometimes when a bear is sleeping quietly after his meal, a part of the ice on which he rests is parted from the rest, and drifts away. When he wakes up, the polar bear finds himself floating out to sea on an island.

8. But even then he need not starve, as he is so good a fisherman. Yet, as it is much more difficult to catch fish in the deep sea than near the shore, he is glad enough when his raft of ice reaches some coast, when he can swim ashore.

9. In this way the polar bear is sometimes forced to pay a visit to countries where men live, keeping flocks and herds. He does not like to land here at all, for he is afraid of human beings, and is at home nowhere but in his own icy land.

10. Neither are the people glad to see him, for when pressed by hunger he will run off with their sheep and cattle. How would you like a heap of snow for your only blanket at Christmas time?

11. Not much, I think, but the polar bear is glad to scoop out a cave in the soft woolly snow, and to lie down and let it cover him up snugly. He sleeps underneath this downy coverlet as soundly as a dormouse in its nest.

12. When the snow begins to melt, he creeps out looking very thin and hungry after his long fast. The mother bear does not come out of her snowy bed alone, but she brings two little cubs out with her, which have been born in that cold nursery.

13. Polar bears cannot be happy or well without snow; it is necessary to their comfort. Often you may see one of these creatures shut up in a cage, panting and swinging his head from side to side. It is a pitiful sight!

14. The white bear swings his head all day long to try and get cool, for he cannot bear our climate, dressed as he is for living among ice-bergs. It is very cruel to bring creatures which are born in a cold country and shut them up in a warm place.

15. It is quite as bad to bring animals such as the giraffe, monkey, and lion from their hot African homes and imprison them in a place far too cold for them. In the Zoological Gardens we often find creatures from the tropics side by side with those from the arctic regions.

16. It is not merciful or right to cage wild

creatures at all, and it makes the matter worse when their prisons are placed in a land so unfit for them.

Questions . 1. Why can no ship pass across the Arctic Ocean by way of the North Pole ? 2. What animal can bear the cold of this region through the whole year ? 3 How is the polar bear fitted for living on the ice ? 4. What is his food, and how does he get it ? 5. What does he do in winter time ? 6. What makes the polar bear so miserable in this country ?

43. THE WHALE.

1. The whale is not a fish as some people suppose. It is a big water animal. It often grows to be sixty or seventy feet long. Beneath its skin it wears a thick jacket of tough fat which is called blubber, and this keeps its warm blood from being chilled.

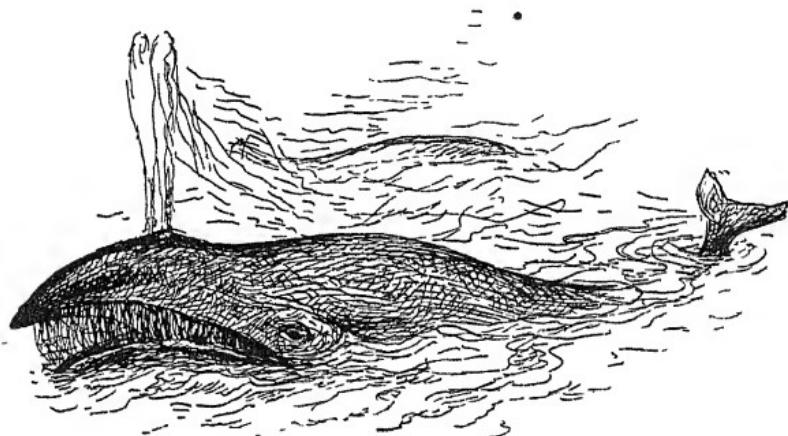
2. Fishes have cold blood. The whale has no scales, but he is covered with a smooth skin. Although the jaws of the whale are so huge that a man might easily walk between them, holding up an umbrella, its throat is so narrow that your hand could not pass down it.

3. The whale can swallow nothing larger than a herring, and he feeds on very small creatures indeed, which he finds swimming about in the waves. His chief food is a tiny kind of sea ani-

mal, so small that it would take many hundreds of them to fill a teaspoon.

4. Think what a lot of them this vast monster must want, to satisfy his hunger! Does it not seem as if the whale must either be starved, or else have to take a great deal of trouble to catch as many of these little specks as he wants?

5. He has, inside his mouth, a most won-



THE WHALE FEEDING

derful fishing net, by means of which he is able to sweep them by millions into his great mouth, as fast as he likes. He can supply himself with a meal when he pleases, with little or no trouble.

6. This net of the whale is made out of about 380 long, thin plates, which hang down from his upper jaw. They bend very easily, and they are called baleen or whalebone. The pieces or

plates of whalebone are sometimes twelve feet long in the front of the whale's mouth. These strips are fringed at the ends.

7. The use of the fringed ends is to strain the water which is sucked in by the whale, and keep back in his mouth the small creatures which he wishes to eat. When the whale is hungry, he need do nothing but swim along through the ocean, and open his mouth. He usually goes near the top, so that part of his head and back are above it.

8. The water, which swarms with the little sea creatures on which the whale feeds, flows between his jaws. The lower jaw is shaped like an immense spoon, and he has also a very big tongue. As soon as his mouth is full of water, the whale closes his jaws and raises his tongue.

9. The water then streams out again through the fringes of whalebone, but all the little living creatures are left behind on his tongue. There is not room between the pieces which make the fringe in the whale's mouth for the small creatures to pass out again, so you see how fine and well-made it is.

10. When this great sea monster has been under water for about one quarter of an hour, he comes up to the top to breathe. Sometimes he blows up a fountain of water as high as a house, when he is lying at the top of the waves.

Questions: 1. What covering has the whale to keep him warm? 2. What can you tell me about his throat? 3. On what kind of creatures does he feed? 4. Of what is the fishing-net of the whale made? 5. How long does the whale often grow to be? 6. For what length of time does he stay in the water without coming up to breathe?

44. A GENTLE GIANTESS.

1. It is a fortunate thing that this great animal is peaceful and gentle, and that he is content with eating small creatures. If he were as fierce as some flesh-eating beasts there would soon be no living creatures left where he dwells.

2. As it is, he is timid and harmless. It seems very sad that he must be made to suffer so much as he does when hunted. Until lately whales were killed in a very cruel manner, by flinging harpoons into them till they died slowly from pain and loss of blood.

3. In modern times a more quick and merciful death by shooting has been used for the poor creatures. But whales have been killed in such vast numbers, that they are fast becoming very rare. They are clever enough, also, to learn how to keep out of the way of ships now.

4. In these days, when steamers, which make a noise, are used instead of sailing vessels, the whales have learnt to go away as fast as they

can when they hear the sound of the screw which makes the steamer move, or the puffing of steam from the funnel.

5. In the year 1881 whalebone was worth £1,100 a ton. Ten years afterwards a ton was worth more than twice that sum of money. It has since become dearer still. This shows that year by year whales are getting more scarce, and if men are not careful there will soon be none left.

6. It would be a good thing if people would use something else instead of whalebone, and some other oil than that which is taken from the whale's body. There are plenty of things which would do quite as well.

7. After her young one is born, the mother-whale suckles it for about a year, until the whalebone net in its mouth has grown, and it is able to catch sea creatures for itself. It is born without any net.

8. She feels the most intense love for her little one, of which she has only one at a time. Cruel sailors know that if they spear the young whale, its mother is sure to come at once within reach of their guns and harpoons. She will rush up to the barbed spear, if it is sticking in her child's back, and will try with all her might to save it.

9. She takes the little one under her fin, just

as a woman might tuck a very small child under her arm to carry it for a short distance. This great fin, which is nine feet long and five feet wide, is able to drag away the little whale, harpoon, rope, and all, from the cruel murderers.

10. The milk of the whale is much richer than that of a cow, so that the infant whale has good food. Some kinds of whales live in great flocks or troops, which are called "schools." They are guided by a chief, or by several leaders, who are called "schoolmasters."

11. Some of these schools are made up of mother-whales only, with their little ones. And the "schoolmasters" must have plenty to do in looking after them, at least if young whales are half as full of fun and mischief as boys and girls are.

Questions 1. What would happen if whales were fierce as well as large? 2. What can you tell me about the price of whalebone? 3. How does the mother-whale feed her young one? 4. How will she try to rescue it? 5. How large is her fin? 6. What are the flocks of whales called?

45. SEALS.

1. The seal is shaped more like a fish than an animal, and yet it is not a fish, but a creature with warm blood, able to give suck to its young,

to breathe air, and to live on dry land when it chooses.

2. The little seals are born on shore, and live there for some time. They are frolicsome, funny little fellows, and romp with each other like a lot of puppies.

3. Sometimes they play at pushing each other off the rocks, and when they are tired of the game they fall asleep. After the mother has been for a swim she crawls on land, hitching herself along with her fin-like paws.

4. She makes a sort of bleat to her young one, not unlike that which a sheep makes when she is calling her lamb. Then the young seal answers her, and she begins to smell first one and then another among the crowd of baby seals till she finds the right one.

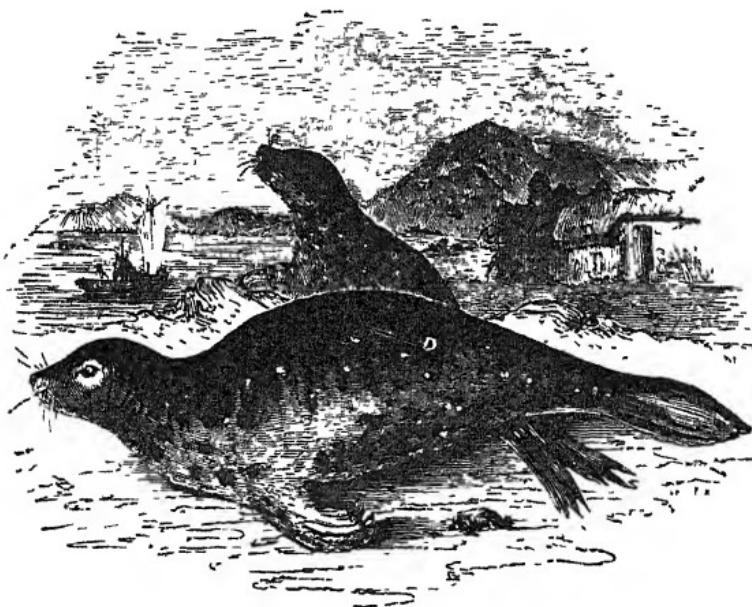
5. Besides the fine, thick, silky coat of the seal, which is made of two kinds of hair, one sort being long and the other short, he is protected from the cold by another covering.

6. His whole body is wrapped in a coating of liquid fat or oil, under the skin, with which he is able to keep his velvet coat in good order and always waterproof. It is said that the mother seal rubs her little cubs with this before giving them their first swimming lesson.

7. As seals must dive and stay in the icy waves for a long time while they are fishing for

their dinner, their nostrils are carefully made in such a way as to shut up when the water presses against them.

8. The ears of the seal, too, are placed deeply among the bones of his head, and their openings close also by the pressure of the water. Not a



SEALS.

drop of freezing water can get into the ears or nostrils of the seal to harm him.

9. The fins, which seem such clumsy limbs for walking or running on the sand, make the most perfect oars in the water. When a seal is once in the sea, it moves so quickly and gracefully that it seems to be taking no trouble.

10. But when these unfortunate creatures are

hunted for the sake of their fur, they are driven far inland to be killed. During this horrible journey the poor seals suffer torments.

11. If the fine ladies and gentlemen who wear sealskin could see what the gentle and beautiful seals must bear before their skins are stripped off, they could not wish to put the fur on afterwards.

12. The nature of the seal is loving, docile, and playful, like that of a dog. Some men on a small island once tamed a seal, which was left quite free.

13. It would follow their boat, or else be always waiting on shore to meet them on their return. It always came to their hut to sleep, licked their hands, and made itself one of the party.

14. It fished for itself, but often brought some of what it caught to its masters. Sometimes the seal would snatch up a stick, brush, or something else in its mouth, scamper off to the water, and swim about with it.

15. Looking roguishly back, he seemed to say, "Catch me if you can!" If nobody gave chase he would soon come back, looking rather disappointed. And though he seemed to enjoy this sort of joke, he always ended by bringing back what he had taken.

Questions : 1. What kind of covering has the seal ? 2. How

are its ears and nose fitted for diving? 3. What sort of creatures are the young ones? 4. What can you tell me of the seal's limbs? 5. Why is it very cruel to wear sealskin? 6. What animal does the seal remind you of by its faithfulness?

46. THE BEAVER.

1. Once upon a time beavers were to be found in England, and that not so very many years ago. But they were ill-used, worried, and destroyed for the sake of their fur, till none were left.

2. Beside the lonely lakes and rivers of Northwest America, where nobody comes to disturb them, beavers still live; but even there the hunters will slaughter them all at last, if people will insist on stealing the poor beaver's jacket to wear.

3. Beavers are so fond of the water that they never go far from it. They can swim and dive well, but do not feel at home on land. They have a wise plan for preventing the streams beside which they live from being too shallow or drying up in summer.

4. In order that they may have water of the right depth all the year round, the beavers build a sort of wall or dam across the stream, which stops the water from running away, and makes it collect into a pool.

5. This dam is built of wooden logs, stones, and mud. And the sharp teeth of this little animal do instead of a saw, chisel, trowel, and plane. If the stream should flow gently, the dam is built straight across.

6. But if the current should be strong, these sensible little builders are knowing enough to shape their wall of logs in the same way that men make the piers of a bridge.

7. Should the stream be swift, they will make the dam rounded on that side against which the water washes, so that the force of the current is broken and does not sweep their workmanship away.

8. The beaver begins to cut down his tree by biting a ring round the bark. Then he goes on grinding away in a circle round the tree till only a very slender bit holds the upper part of the trunk to the lower.

9. Soon the tree falls by its own weight, and you may be sure that the small woodcutter takes care to get out of its way. He even contrives to make the tree fall towards the stream, and to cut down those trees nearest to it, that he may be saved the trouble of carrying the wood far.

10. As soon as his tree is down, the beaver cuts it into logs of about three feet long. The thickness of these logs is sometimes eighteen inches, but oftener six or eight.

11. They are dragged and pushed somehow into the stream, and held in their places by stones and mud. Nobody ever sees this little workman at his task, for he always toils in the dark.

12. More sticks are drifted down by the river, and then seeds of trees and plants settle there.

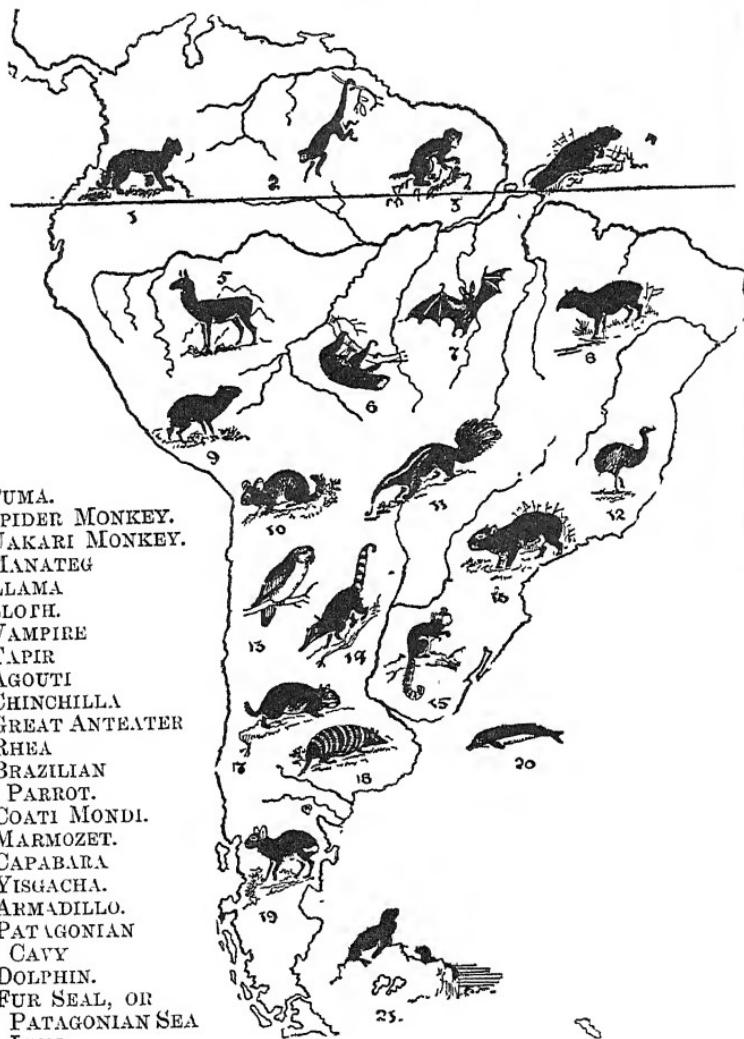


A FAMOUS BUILDER.

In time the dam may become a broad belt of large trees and herbage. Beside the pool which he has made stands the beaver's mud hut, or lodge.

13. This is firmly built out of mud, mixed with sticks. Its walls are about three feet thick, and its only doorway leads into the water; so that, if frightened, the master of the house escapes by diving into the stream.

SOUTH AMERICA.



Questions: 1. Why are there no beavers to be found now in England? 2. Where does the beaver now live? 3. Where does he like best to make his hut? 4. How does he manage to get water all the year round of the right depth? 5. Tell me how the beaver cuts down his trees? 6. Describe the beaver's lodge.

47. HUMMING BIRDS.

1. These lovely little beings, which seem more like brilliant-winged insects than birds, are almost as useful in America as swallows are in England, though the largest kind is no bigger than a wren.

2. The tiny humming-bird leads a life as gay as that of a butterfly, yet does much good work in clearing the flowers and plants from small flies, spiders, blight, and other creeping things.

3. Humming-birds cannot live on honey alone, though they are very fond of sipping it from the cups of flowers. They must have more solid food as well. Insects which live in flowers, biting the petals or spoiling the seeds, are carefully picked out by these bright little gardeners.

4. Sometimes the humming-bird finds a spider's web filled with flies. Then he will rob the cunning fellow of his booty, taking great care to keep out of reach of the master of the web.

5. The humming-bird is so tiny that the big spiders of his country could easily hug him to

death in their arms. So he is most careful in going close to the web not to entangle his wings in it.

6. If the spider sees or hears the little robber, he rushes out of his den, and then the small thief darts off like a flash of light, his colours sparkling in the sunshine.

7. The nest of a humming-bird is only one inch wide, and as much in depth. The mother lays two eggs only. Though she is often no bigger than a humble bee, she is a brave little mother, and makes as much fuss about her home and children as if she were an eagle.

8. If anyone should come too near her pretty dwelling-place, she and her mate will dart out in a great flurry and fly almost into the face of that person, whirring round and round his head as if trying to drive him away, their wings humming all the while.

9. The female will go back to her nest though you may be standing quite near. She is afraid the eggs will be chilled, and perhaps she thinks that nobody could have the heart to do any harm to so wee a nest and mother.

10. This fairy cradle is woven finely with bluish-grey lichens, stripped from the trunks of trees. The bird mixes some sticky stuff from her mouth with the outer wall of her home, so that her babies may be dry and warm inside.



A BELOVED HOME.

11. Their bed is then snugly lined with the down from flying seeds, and wool plucked from soft leaves and ferns. The young ones put their long beaks into those of their parents to take the honey which is brought to them.

12. The plumage of humming-birds is so splendid, glorious, and gay, that the Mexican and North American Indians kill thousands of them in order to make feather robes for their chiefs to wear.

13. We can hardly wonder that untaught savages should do these barbarous things, but it seems very strange that English women and girls should like to deck themselves in the skins and wings of poor little birds.

14. The dead body of a bird is an ugly trimming for a hat, because it shows that a cruel deed has been done to get it. If people would leave off buying dead birds, traders would soon leave off having them killed, for they only do it to earn money.

Questions: 1. What useful work does the humming-bird do? 2. What theft does he commit sometimes? 3. How large is the nest of a humming-bird, and how is it made? 4. What sort of mother is the little humming-bird? 5. How large is she? 6. Why is a dead bird an ugly trimming for a hat?

48. OUR HAPPY SECRET.

1. Oh, I couldn't help it!

It came to me
Out of the midst
Of an old apple-tree;
Came to me soft,
With a chirping note—
Out popped the secret
From dear little throat;

“Just here, just here, the nest shall be;
Nobody knows it! Oh! happy we!”

2. I didn't listen!

I tell you true;
They told it, and I,
Say, what could I do?
They sang it, and sang it,
Not looking at me,
Who sat looking out
At the old apple-tree,

“Just here, just here, the nest shall be;
Nobody knows it! Oh! happy we!”

3. Do you think I'd tell,

Oh! dear me, no!
Just where that wee nest
Is going to grow?

You couldn't find
If a week you tried,
My apple-tree where
That home shall hide ;
“Just where, just where that nest shall be,
Nobody knows it, only we three ! ”

MARGARET SIDNEY. (“Humane Educator.”)

49. BUTTERFLIES.

1. A butterfly looks something like a flower does it not ? Its wings are so bright and its colours so lovely. Yet, if we pick a flower it feels no pain ; but if we snatch at a butterfly the pretty thing lies dead and still. It has felt pain, and its life is gone.

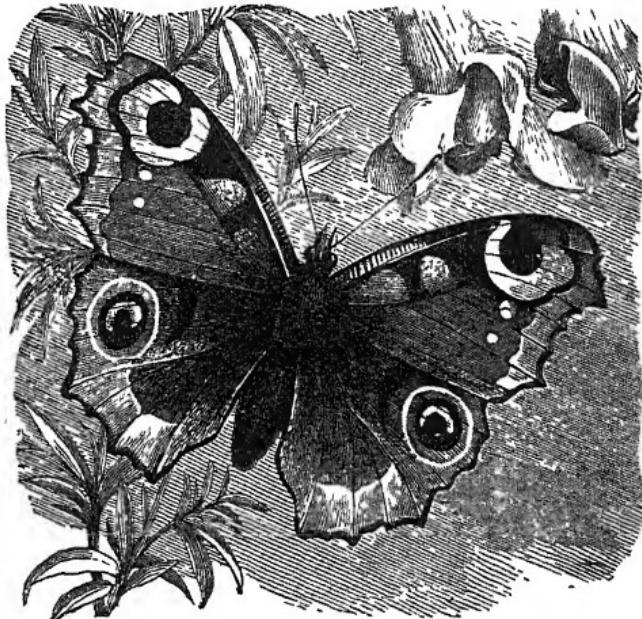
2. Though the gay butterfly looks as if she had nothing to do but play, she is a busy little creature as well as a happy one. There are many sorts of butterflies in every part of the world where the sun shines warmly.

3. Some are white or yellow, others blue as the sky ; some have beautiful red spots and marks like eyes on their wings, and some foreign sorts glitter like rainbows and are larger than a swallow.

4. A few are streaked with gold and silver, while the rest have little plain brown dresses.

Many look brilliant as tulips or roses. But no matter whether a butterfly is plain or bright, she has a duty to do, and does it well.

5. Though you see the butterfly flitting about from flower to flower as if she had nothing to do but sip the honey through her tiny trunk, she is not idle. She only stops to take her



THE ENGLISH PEACOCK BUTTERFLY.

small meals and to enjoy the warm sunshine while she thinks about laying her eggs.

6. Now, though the food of butterflies is nothing but the sweet juice of flowers, they know that the little ones which will be born from their eggs will want a different sort of dinner.

7. She does not lay her eggs on the first plant that comes. That would not do at all. She must pick out the right one. For each butterfly keeps to a plant of her own, and never changes it. She never lays her eggs on the wrong one by mistake.

8. There is only one butterfly which takes no trouble of this sort. That is the marbled white butterfly, and she lays her eggs just where she likes, for her young feed on grass. She knows that grass springs up in all places, so she takes no trouble about the matter.

9. Though the butterflies of South America are larger and more gaudy than our own, none are more beautifully marked than those we see in our meadows.

10. Their habits are the same, so that we may take any one of our common British butterflies as a pattern for the whole race. All are born and are changed alike, though of course the plants on which they feed are different in other climates.

11. Three of our most beautiful English butterflies have chosen the common sting-nettle as a cradle for their brood. One of these is called the peacock butterfly, and it is a handsome insect.

12. After she has found a nettle-plant, she glues her little eggs firmly to a leaf, so that the

wind may not blow them away. She hides them as well as she can, for fear that some hungry bird may spy them out and eat them.

13. As soon as she has done this she dies, or else creeps into a hole to go to sleep till next spring. She will never have anything more to do with the little ones for whom she has taken so much care. The hot beams of the sun hatch the eggs, and some very small grubs or caterpillars creep out.

14. At first they are very little and weak, but after eating their egg-shells they grow strong enough to walk as far as the edge of the leaf. The spears which sting us so sharply do the little caterpillars no harm. They are able to crawl among them without the least danger.

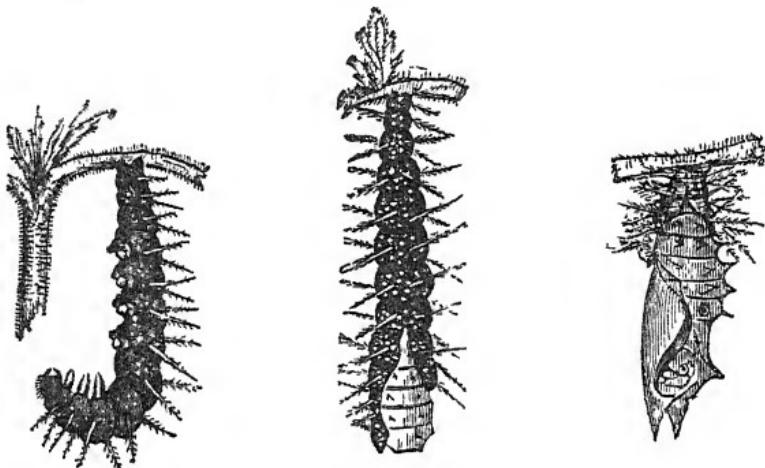
Questions 1. What has the butterfly to think of besides play? 2. How does she feed? 3. On what do her young feed? 4. How does the marbled white butterfly lay her eggs? 5. What plant does the tortoise-shell butterfly choose? 6. What do the caterpillars eat as soon as they are born?

50. A GREAT CHANGE.

1. Before doing any other thing, the little caterpillars spin a web of silk. They use this as a little tent at night after they have been out to feed all day. The caterpillar cannot begin to

feed in the middle of the leaf, because his jaws work from side to side, not up and down.

2. His jaws are formed for nipping bits out of the border of a leaf. And he has ten feet like small cushions, with which he takes a firm hold of the leaf. Besides these he has six other feet with joints near his head. His eyes do not see very far.



TORTOISE-SHELL CATERPILLAR CHANGING INTO A CHRYSALIS.

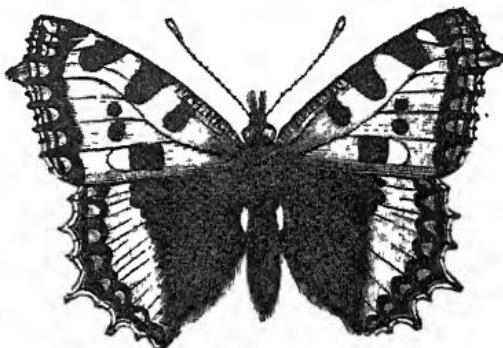
3. As he has nothing to do all day but eat, the young caterpillar does not want to look about him. And he need not stop to breathe. For the air comes into his body through holes in his sides. Soon his skin grows too tight. Then he casts it off and finds a new one underneath. He does this four or five times.

4. Many caterpillars have long hairs growing on their bodies. These are useful to protect

them. No caterpillar who has these hairs need be afraid if he should tumble down from his leaf; though that is as far for him as a fall from the roof of the house would be for us.

5. Most hairy caterpillars have a trick of dropping from the leaf, on purpose that they may creep away and hide among the weeds or grass when they think that danger is near. They roll up into a ball and let themselves go.

6. As soon as the caterpillar has done feeding on the nettle leaves and is full grown, he changes his skin for the last time. He now takes off not only his coat but his jaws. He will not want to bite leaves any more. He is going to turn into a butterfly.



TORTOISL-SHELL BUTTERFLY.

7. The creature now hangs itself head downwards by its hind feet, while some wonderful changes go on both inside and outside his body. His legs shrivel up and are no more seen. His body grows shorter and takes a new form. He now looks more like some dry husk or seed-pod than a living thing.

8. He keeps quite still as if dead, until some

fine sunny day the old husk splits. Out bursts a winged butterfly instead of the crawling worm that was there before. Its wings are crumpled up, it rushes upward to a place from which they may hang down.

9. Soon they unfold and show the fine red, blue, and yellow markings. The new-born butterfly opens and shuts them a few times as if to try their strength, and then skims away to make the most of his short life.

10. As he flies from one blossom to another, he carries some of the yellow flower-dust from bloom to bloom. This helps the flowers to make their seeds, which are formed from that yellow dust. And it must be taken from the flower which bears it to a second flower, before it can turn into seed.

11. So you see that the butterfly is like a useful little gardener to the flowers. I should hope that nobody who reads this would ever hurt a butterfly. Let us pick as many flowers as we like. But why should we crush those bright wings, or take away that happy, useful little life ?

Questions : 1. What can you tell me about a caterpillar's jaws ? 2. Of what use are his hairs ? 3. When full grown, what happens to him ? 4. What are the butterfly's wings like at first ? 5. Of what use is a butterfly as he flies from flower to flower ? 6. What must we never do to a butterfly ?

AUSTRALASIA.

1. This division of the world includes the gigantic island of Australia, with New Zealand, Tasmania, and the smaller islands belonging to them. Australia itself differs from all other continents in having neither large mountains nor great rivers.

2. It is a land of vast plains, upon which little water is found, save in lakes and pools which spread out in the rainy season, and dry up into mere ponds called "water-holes" in summer time.

3. In such a country as this the animals would often be forced to travel long distances in search of water, the more so as droughts are common. We shall find that several of the Australian creatures are provided with a bag or pouch in which the mother can carry her little ones when on a journey.

4. The kangaroo is found nowhere but in this land, and seems fitted to live in no other. It scuds over the waste land like an immense hare, five feet high, with a habit of sitting upright on its haunches, and of taking leaps fifteen feet long instead of running.

5. Another pouched animal, the opossum,

AUSTRALASIA.



1. OPPOSUM.
2. EMU
3. GREAT KANGAROO.
4. KOALA, OR AUSTRALIAN BEAR.
5. GREAT COCKATOO.
6. DUCK-BILLED PLATYPUS
7. ANT-EATER
8. DINGO, AUSTRALIAN WILD DOG.
9. FRIGATE BIRD.
10. SHARK.

lives in the gum-trees which are spread over some parts of Australia, and in the "scrub," or brushwood. The koala, a harmless little animal of the sloth tribe, is also a tree climber.

6. The bandicoot is a small, rat-like kangaroo. There is also a little animal called an echidna, which feeds on ants. But the strangest creature



THE DUCK-BILL.

of Australia is the duck-bill, a creature with a duck's beak, webbed feet, and fine soft fur.

7. It lives partly on land and partly under water, laying eggs, but giving suck to its little ones as soon as they are hatched. It is found in the Murray River, which flows through New South Wales and Victoria, as well as in other spots.

8. In Australia the birds are splendid, and

are seen in great numbers. Snowy cockatoos, with sulphur or rose-coloured crests, visit the fields as rooks do here. Parrots, pigeons, cranes, the cassowary, and the emu, the "laughing jackass" (a kind of kingfisher), and the black swan are to be met with. The frigate-bird haunts its tropical seas.

9. Insects of a thousand kinds swarm in the sunny air of this dry continent, the northern half of which lies within the Tropic of Capricorn. Gorgeous butterflies, ten times larger than any we see at home, flit hither and thither.

10. Besides grasshoppers of a large size, brilliant beetles, and stinging flies of many kinds, the curious "mantis," or "walking leaf," is common in some parts, looking so much like the leaves on which it feeds as to cheat the birds which wish to make it their prey.

11. There is a wild dog called the "dingo" in Australia, and a large kind of ferret wrongly named the "wild cat." But there are no creatures harmful to man.

12. When New Zealand was first visited by white men no wild animals but a small kind of rat were found. The wild pigs now there are supposed to be descended from some left behind by Captain Cook. English animals, wild and tame, thrive well in New Zealand.

13. Rabbits from England have multiplied so

fast as to become a plague, and the New Zealand farmers, in great trouble, have been obliged to send for weasels to kill them, since there are no small beasts of prey to keep down their numbers in New Zealand, and the rabbits were eating all the crops.

14. But, do what they would, the rabbits could not be got rid of. They were brought over by cruel sportsmen who wished to have something to shoot in the new land. It was a wrong and foolish reason, and the rabbits have been a punishment to the colony ever since.

Questions 1. In what respect is Australia different from other Continents ? 2. Name one Australian river, and the animal which lives in it. 3. What can you tell me about the birds of Australia ? 4. Who first brought pigs to New Zealand ? 5. Why were rabbits taken there ? 6. What harm have they done ?

52. LEAPING FOR LIFE.

1. What would you say to taking a leap of ten yards ? This is quite an easy matter for a young kangaroo. We think that a man does pretty well if he can leap ten feet ; but here is a creature no taller than he is, who can jump thirty feet at a single bound.

2. How does the kangaroo manage this huge

stride? He almost flies over the earth. The shape of this animal shows that leaping is more easy to him than running. His fore paws are very short, and he seldom stands on them.

3. Even when he is cropping grass from the ground he crouches forward, but does not rest on them. His hind legs are rather like those of a frog. They are more than twice as long as his fore legs, and are doubled up under him when he sits.

4. The tail of the kangaroo is large and heavy; he uses it as a sort of weight to keep him steady. His hind legs are so strong that he can raise his body on them, so as to stand easily on the tips of his toes.

5. And then he will balance himself with his tail so as not to topple over. Tufts of very high grass grow in the plains of Australia where he lives ; and in these the kangaroo often hides.

6. If he hears any sound at a distance which alarms him, he stands up on tiptoe to peep over the grass, and if he sees anything to frighten him, off he scuds like a big hare. He soon leaves his followers behind.

7. The kangaroos eat young shoots of small shrubs, grass, and heather. These they crop at early morning, at evening, or by night. And when browsing together, a flock of these crea

tures is a pretty sight. They are gentle and peaceful as sheep.



TAKING A REST.

8. When travelling from one place to another, they choose a leader to go before them. They always trust their captain, and go where he

leads. It is quite impossible to turn the others from the road which the head kangaroo has chosen.

9. Kangaroos live in troops of about fifty or sixty, and the droves do not mix with one another. They are very timid and shy animals, and always seek refuge in flight when they see men coming near.

10. They may well run away from us, poor things! For men have treated them very badly. At night the kangaroos gather together and sleep in a sort of camp. From this place to their feeding ground they make beaten tracks or paths.

Questions : 1. How far can a kangaroo leap at one bound ? 2. What are his fore paws like ? 3. What are his hind legs like ? 4. What is his food ? 5. What do kangaroos choose before they travel ? 6. Who does the kangaroo look on as his worst enemy ?

53. JOEY.

1. The kangaroo is a graceful and beautiful animal. By browsing on the herbs and shrubs in desert places, he helps to keep them in good order, and makes them sprout. By nibbling off the leaves, he makes new ones grow, just as a gardener does by pruning or cutting grass.

2. If there were no creatures to do this in

woods and wilds, where no men live, these places would soon become one great tangle. The over-grown bushes and trees would not thrive. And the grass would not be nearly so fine.



AWAY WE GO.

3. The female kangaroo has a sort of pouch or pocket of skin beneath her breast, just where her fore paws can reach it easily. In this she carries her little one. She has one child at a time only,

and at first it is little more than an inch long, though its mother may be five feet in height.

4. This tiny kangaroo stays in the mother's pocket till it is able to run by her side. But, even then, if he is afraid, he will jump head over heels back into the pouch. The little kangaroo is called a "joey." It is wonderful how quickly the mother can pick up her joey, and tuck him into her pocket.

5. Even if she is running at full speed, and no matter how frightened she may be, she never forgets him. And she never puts him into her pocket upside down, but always takes care that his pretty little face is outside, so that his bright eyes may see where he is going.

6. It is difficult to believe that any person can find pleasure in chasing this good mother, and causing her distress when she has her baby to take care of. Yet selfish and hard-hearted men go out to hunt the kangaroo with dogs, and call it fine sport.

7. No man but a coward would take delight in hunting an innocent creature to death while she was trying hard to save her little one. As soon as the mother-kangaroo hears the dogs and men behind her, she snatches up her joey, puts him into her pouch, and starts wildly off.

8. For one long mile after another, she labours hard to outstrip the hunters. But she has he

child to carry, and at last her strength fails. When she feels that she cannot hold out much longer, the poor thing makes one last effort to give her little one a chance for life.

9. She knows that the fierce dogs and fiercer men are coming nearer and nearer. And she is sure that she cannot carry her load much further. If she kept her baby in the pouch it must share her sad fate. Her last thought is for him.

10. So, though she would not have left him behind for the world, she now makes up her mind to part with the little joey. Very carefully she pushes both hands into the pouch, lifts out the young kangaroo, and flings him as far as she can on one side out of reach of the dogs.

11. What a hard moment that must be for her! Would you like to be one of the men who forced a creature to bear such grief? Then, being lightened of her load, she is able to leap along more swiftly. If she is torn to pieces or shot, her little joey may still live.

12. But if she is so lucky as to escape, the faithful kangaroo goes back to search for her young one. If men go on hunting in this way there will soon be no kangaroos left.

- Questions : 1. Of what use are kangaroos where they feed? 2. How big is the young kangaroo when first born? 3. How does his mother carry him? 4. What is the young one called? 5. When hunted to death what does she do with her young one? 6. If her life is saved what will she do?

54. RABBITS.

1. The pretty little grey bunny, whether he lives in New Zealand or here, loves to make his home in a sunny bank. He is a friendly little animal, and prefers to have his front door close to that of another bunny. Rabbits never like to live alone.

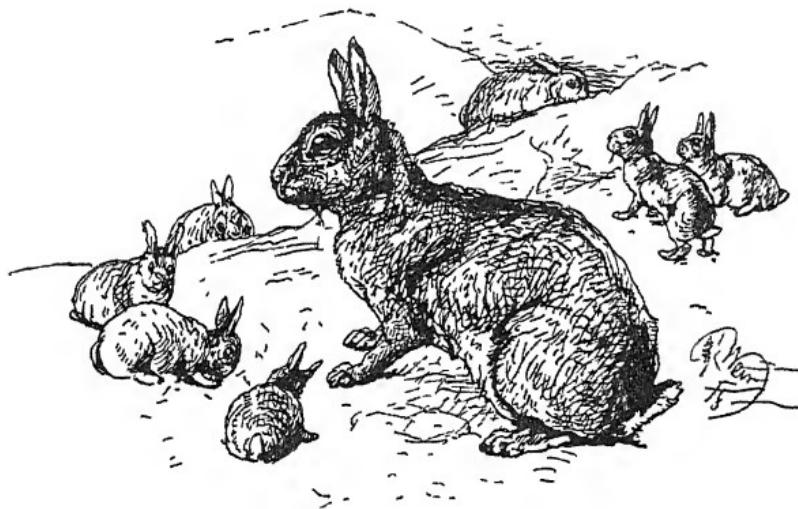
2. They show much sense in the choice of a home. "First," says Mr. Grey Bunny, "my house must be warm; then it must be dry. Next, it must not be too far from a place where nice fresh food grows; and last, but not least, the hole had better be hidden under some ferns or brambles, so that no one may come in to bother me, and worry Mrs. Grey Bunny."

3. He is afraid to roam very far from his hole to feed, for he has so many enemies to think of. He must keep within a few yards of his little cave if he can, so as to be able to pop into it in a great hurry if he sees a man with a gun, or a fox, or a weasel coming.

4. While the little bunnies are too small to know that they ought to run away from every noise, and till they learn that men and boys are their foes, the grown-up rabbits always warn them when somebody is coming.

5. Instead of thinking only of their own safety, they begin to stamp on the ground with their feet, and this signal is so loud that it can be heard quite a long way off. It is meant to tell the little ones to run in.

6. Sometimes these good parents will allow themselves to be within gunshot distance of a man rather than go home before the little rabbits



MRS. GREY BUNNY AND HER FAMILY.

are safe. The soft grey or brown coat of a wild rabbit looks, at a distance, very much like a patch of bare earth among the green grass which he is nibbling.

7. The rabbit seems to know this, and often crouches down and keeps quite still instead of running off. He hopes that you will mistake him for a bit of the ground. As soon as he

scampers away, the short white tail goes bob, bob, bobbing along, and he is plainly seen.

8. Among all the foes of the wild rabbit, the weasel is the one which he most dreads. This fierce little animal is small enough to follow the bunny into his hole, where he quickly kills him. But if there were no weasels, we should have so many rabbits that they would leave nothing to eat either for men or animals.

9. The weasel does not give the rabbit much pain. Bunny soon dies from his bite. But the cruel steel traps hold them fast by iron teeth, which grind themselves into the flesh, and keep them alive in dreadful pain for hours and perhaps days.

10. It is wicked to catch any creature in a trap which leaves it to linger long in agony. If we must kill any animal, it ought to be done as quickly as possible, and with as little pain as we can give.

Questions: 1. What sort of place does the rabbit choose for his hole? 2. What will a rabbit sometimes do instead of running away? 3. How do the old rabbits warn the young ones of danger? 4. What is the worst enemy of the rabbit? 5. Does the weasel kill the rabbit quickly or slowly? 6. Why is it wicked to catch rabbits in steel traps?

55. DOWN A HOLE.

1. When a lot of rabbits are living together, they make quite a large town underground. Though they all run through the same narrow tunnels, and pass each other in wider ones, they never seem to quarrel.

2. There are always many gates from the rabbit city, so that the little furry folk may go in at one door and out at the other; and in this way they get a chance of running away by a second hole when they see the weasel coming in at the first.

3. Though they enjoy living in a crowd, the mother-rabbit does not care for all this bustle and running to and fro when she has young ones. She wishes to keep her nursery quiet and private.

4. So she digs out a little tunnel for herself, which branches out from one of the larger burrows, so that she can be alone or have a chat with a neighbour just as she wishes.

5. At the end of the little chamber which she digs, she places her nest. And it is made of the softest down, which she pulls out from her own breast with her teeth. She is very careful of her little ones, even after they are able to run out-of-doors with her.

6. When men come with guns to shoot the poor bunnies, and wound one without killing him, the little rabbit always tries to run into his hole if he can. He wishes to die at home. And when he is dead, the other rabbits drag out the body and take it to some distance from the burrow.

7. When we think what a frisky, funny little animal the wild rabbit is, it makes his brother, the tame rabbit, seem very stupid beside him.

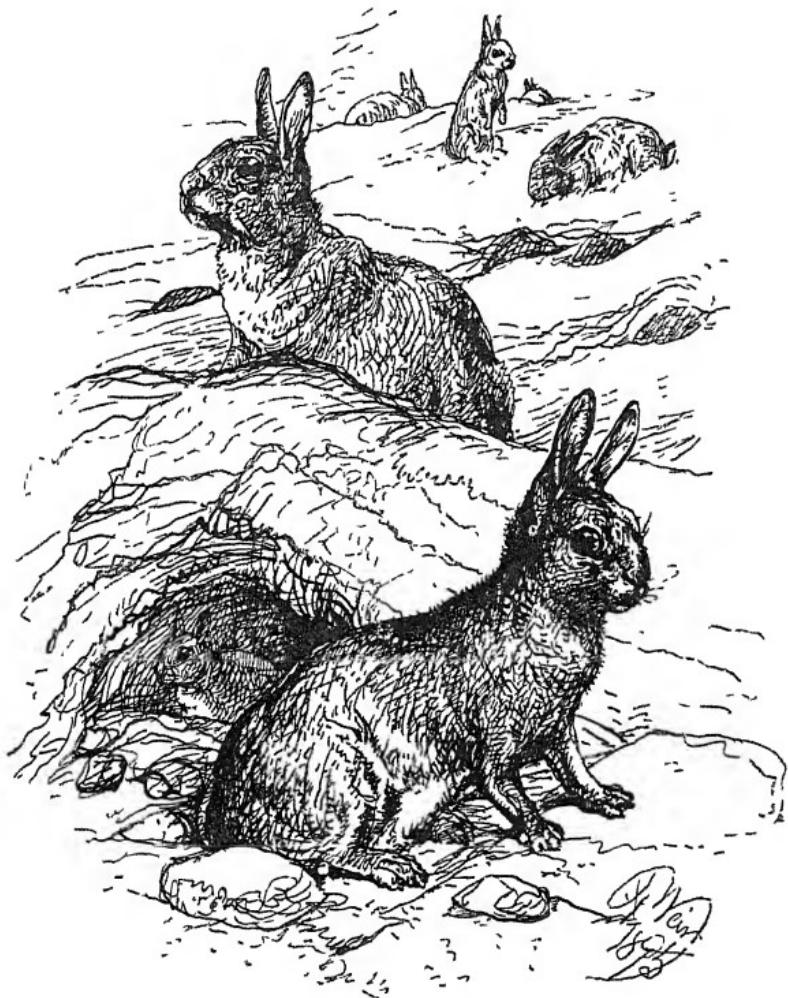
8. He often suffers much from being kept in a dirty hutch and not properly fed. The flesh of the tame rabbit is far from wholesome, and it is not at all pleasant to think of feeding on the body of a creature which has been shut up all its life in a filthy box.

9. Caged creatures can never enjoy their lives much, no matter how kind we may be to them. It is far better to keep such pets only as may follow us, and be our friends, without losing their freedom. Rabbits like to frolic and romp. They want a proper playground as much as a schoolboy does.

10. The rabbit is a rodent, or gnawing animal. Its front teeth are very beautiful tools. They are shaped like sharp chisels, and by using them in gnawing hard things like the bark of trees, rabbits keep their chisels always in good order.

11. The tooth goes on growing up from the

bottom, as fast as it is worn away at the top; so that it is never any shorter. But if the rabbit were shut up and could not get hard things



ON THE WATCH

when he wanted them, his teeth would go on growing till they were far too long.

12. The teeth would get longer and longer as

your nails do, till at last they would push against the upper jaw, and hurt his mouth very much. And this is what often happens to rodents, or gnawing animals, when they are shut up in cages.

Questions · 1. What sort of place does the rabbit choose for her young? 2. How does she make a bed for her little ones? 3. What will rabbits do with the dead body of a friend? 4. What sort of teeth has the rabbit? 5. What often happens to the teeth of gnawing animals, or rodents, when they are caged?

56. I'M ONLY A LITTLE BROWN MOUSE.

1. I'm only a little brown mouse
That lives in somebody's house,
And in that same house is a cat,
But oh, oh! what do I care for that?
She sits in the sunshine and licks her white
paws,
With one eye on me and one on her claws;
How she watches the crack when she sees my
brown back!
But she'll never catch me, for oh, oh! don't you
see,
That I am the smartest young mouse
That lives anywhere in the house?

2. Oh, I am the merriest mouse
That lives in somebody's house!
I love toasted cheese and nice bread,
And some wool to make a soft bed.
Oh, isn't it nice to be one of the mice
That rattle o'erhead when folks are a-bed?
Tell me, don't you wish you could run up a wall
As I do every night, without getting a fall?
And don't you wish you were a mouse,
That lives anywhere in the house ?

—“ Recitations ; ” an Inspector’s Collection.

57. SLEEPING IN THE AIR:

1. How would you like to take a nap with nothing beneath you but empty air? I do not think that you would sleep long in comfort, tossing upon the wind! But there is a big bird who sleeps up in the air, and yet he never tumbles down.

2. This is the frigate bird, or “man-of-war,” as he is sometimes called. If you were standing on the seashore of some tropical country, you might look up into the sky and see a small speck drifting there.

3. No matter how stormy it might be where you stood, that small dot would seem to be at

rest and in peace. The frigate bird can sweep along at the rate of 240 miles an hour, five or six times faster than some railway trains.

4. If he likes, he can take his breakfast in Africa, and then cross the ocean to dine in America on the same day. Except when he makes his nest, this bird seldom goes inland. Nor is he ever seen to rest on the water. The air is his home.

5. When he is hungry, the frigate bird comes swooping down like a huge sea-gull upon some fish which his keen eyes have spied from far above. But how does he manage when he goes to sleep, if he dislikes the land and does not choose the water?

6. As soon as the chilly night comes, and the sun sets, or when a storm arises, the frigate bird rises high into the air. Under his throat he has a large pouch, and he fills this, as well as his bones and the rest of his body, as full of warm air as he can.

7. You know that air, after it has been heated, goes upward because it is light. It is easy to see this by putting a little feather a few inches above the flame of a candle or lamp. The hot air from the flame will carry the feather towards the ceiling.

8. The warm air in the bones and lungs of the frigate bird helps him in rising into the sky, for it makes his body lighter. His huge wings, which

he has learnt to keep stretched out without tiring himself, make him float. He goes on rising till he is far above the cold wind, fog, and damp.



THE FRIGATE BIRD.

9. There he rests as safely as you do in your snug bed at home. If the wind blows beneath him, the force of the gale does not matter. And if a flap or two of his wings should be needful

from time to time while he is asleep, the frigate bird can give them without waking.

10. When little birds roost on one leg upon a twig, they change from one foot to the other without waking up. And so this bird can take care of himself, and yet not break his slumbers.

11. Though his body is no larger than that of a cock, his vast wings may measure fifteen feet from one wing tip to the other, when they are spread out.

12. After his sleep in the air, the frigate bird can send out much of the warm air from his body, and sink down easily to the surface of the sea when he wishes to feed. His speed is so great, that this big world must seem quite a small place to him.

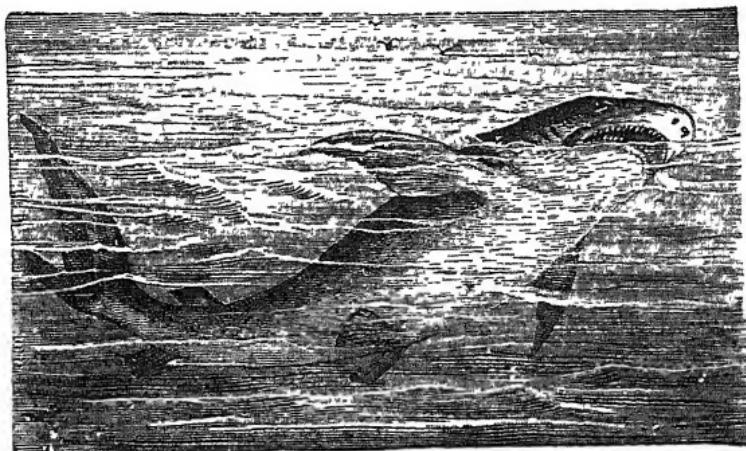
Questions 1. What bird can go to sleep in the sky ? 2. What makes the body of the frigate bird so light ? 3. What can he do with his wings without waking ? 4. How wide are his wings ? 5. What size is his body ? 6. When he wishes to come down what does he do ?

58. THE SHARK.

1. We know that beasts of prey, such as lions or tigers, have a duty to do in the world. They prevent creatures which feed on grass and vegetable food from becoming too plentiful and turning the earth into a desert.

2. In wild places where no man lives to keep things in order the creatures do it. What lions and tigers do for the waste lands, where no human being lives, great fishes of prey do for the vast ocean, or else its waters would become over-crowded and poisonous.

3. Among these fishes of prey the shark is king. He is hungry and fierce because he has so



THE SHARK.

much to do, so many fish to eat. Fishes multiply more quickly than almost any other kind of living thing, and the shark is always ready for his business.

4. The largest, as well as the most savage and dangerous of this tribe, is called the white shark, and he sometimes reaches a length of thirty feet. When he sees a man in the water this sea-tiger is glad to get hold of him.

5. I suppose he thinks that he has caught a fine large fish. And he will even attack sailors in their boats. This makes them hate him; but it is hardly fair to blame a creature for doing what it is his nature to do.

6. Sharks cannot tell a man from a fish. They think that they may pounce upon any moving thing they see, and they cannot tell the difference between sailors and fishes.

7. As the shark's mouth is placed on the lower part of his head, he is obliged to turn over on his back before he can seize anything which is above him. A nimble swimmer may thus have a chance of escape by dodging the shark.

8. The dreadful teeth of this monster fish are pointed like sharp bits of broken glass. They are jagged in such a way that nothing can escape their fearful grip when once they have closed.

9. When the shark is young he has but one row of teeth on each jaw, but by the time that he is full-grown he has no less than six rows placed side by side. The tail of the shark is also a mighty weapon.

10. Yet even the shark, though his presence strikes terror wherever he comes, is gentle towards his mate, and at the time when she is about to lay her eggs he guards and tends her with care and affection.

11. The eggs of the shark are each wrapped up in a tough, strong bag, not unlike an oblong leather purse, with strings at each of the four corners. By these strings the egg is tied to a stem of seaweed.

12. In this way the egg is safe from rough waves, which might dash it against the rocks or wash it ashore. When the little shark is strong enough to come out, he pushes his way through a small door at one end.

13. And he carries with him a part of the yolk of the egg in a little bag fastened to his body. There is no fear that the tiny shark will starve, for his provisions last him till his teeth are grown and he can fend for himself.

14. We may feel quite sure that there is a use in the world for this creature, since so much care and thought has been taken to guard its life and provide for its wants in the cradle.

Questions : 1. What is the duty of lions and tigers ? 2. What creatures do the same work in the water, and what fish is the king of them ? 3. What must the shark do before he can seize anything above him ? 4. Why is it not fair to blame the shark when he catches a man ? 5. Tell me what the shark's egg is like. 6. What makes us feel sure that there is a use in the world for sharks ?

59. CORAL ISLANDS.

1. Most people know that coral comes from under the sea, and have seen it either cut into pretty polished beads or as it is found, in rough branched pieces—white, pink, and red.

2. You might think that it was a strange kind of stone, for it is very hard, and I am sure nobody would ever guess that it was the work of a small sea animal with a body as soft as jelly.

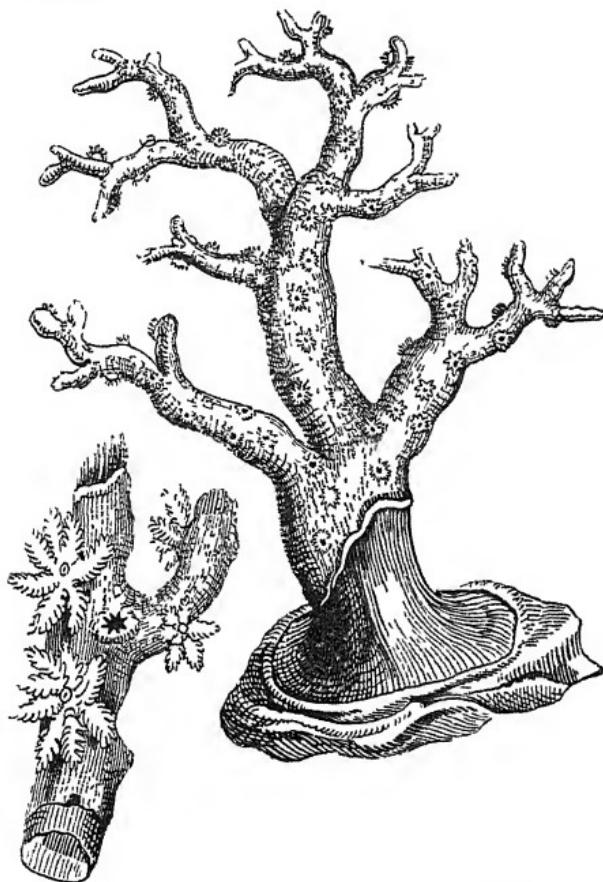
3. If you take a bit of coral like that in the picture into your hand, you will see that it is full of holes or cells. Well, at one time a small creature called a polyp lived in each of those cells.

4. And he it was, with a host of others like himself, who helped to build up the stony mass. Some kinds of coral are more delicate than others. The picture shows you two pieces of red coral, one with the living creatures inside their cells.

5. At first the young coral polyp was nothing but a bud made of jelly. It had no bones, so it set to work at once to make some for itself. It was able to do this by collecting from the sea-water some of the lime which is always in it.

6. This lime it soon formed into sharp, flinty spikes in the midst of its soft body, so that other

sea-animals did not like to bite it. The rest of the lime was made into a sort of shell or case in which it could live without being carried away by the waves.



THE BEGINNING OF A CORAL ISLAND.

7. Not only does the coral polyp know how to build, but he knows how to feed. The animal looks more like a little flower than anything else. It can spread out its arms into the shape of a tiny star, or draw them in when it pleases.

8. This is not unlike what a daisy does; but a daisy does not want to catch living things as the coral polyp does, neither can it build a house for itself. The coral polyp is always waving its feelers or rays about to find something.

9. It never leaves off sifting the water for lime or else for living things too small for us to see. Every one of its rays is fringed with threads which are too tiny to be seen. The creature flings these threads over its prey as a hunter might fling a rope over a wild animal which he wished to catch.

10. The coral polyp often throws out buds, and each bud makes new bones and cells close to the old one. Thus the branches of coral go on growing and growing till they form huge rocks beneath the ocean.

11. When a polyp dies its shell is left behind. So many millions of these creatures have lived and died in the Pacific Ocean and elsewhere that their cells have been piled at last into strong, hard barriers, which break the force of the waves.

12. Sometimes the sea-bottom is lifted up by an earthquake or volcano, and then the coral rocks, called reefs, are lifted above its surface. Seaweed and sand collect on the top, seeds of trees float there and take root.

13. At last a green island rises above the

waters. The reefs are generally found in a sort of circle, having a smooth lake in the centre, which fills up by degrees.

14. And all this is the work of that small, patient labourer, the coral polyp! Take your map and look at Polynesia, the many islands lying in the Pacific Ocean, and also at the Laccadive and Maldives Islands.

15. Most of these were formed by the skill and labour of countless creatures, who each did his wee bit of toil in silence and without notice or praise. The coral polyp never dreamed that he was helping to make a beautiful island fit for men to live in.

16. And none of us can tell what grand ending there may be to little things which we try to do, if we only do them as well as we can, and never think anything too small or trifling to be done with all our might.

Questions. 1. What sort of body has the coral animal? 2. How does it make bones for itself? 3. What does it make besides bones? 4. How do new branches grow on the coral stem? 5. How does the coral polyp feed? 6. Tell me how a coral island is begun, and give me the names of some coral islands.

60. WAITING FOR BREAKFAST.

1. Icy breath of winter pinches
 Birds upon the leafless bough ;
Sparrows, thrushes, tit-mice, finches,
 Who will bring them succour now ?
2. Drooping beak and ruffled feather ;
 Hungry looks they cast below,
Sitting huddled up together
 O'er their table-cloth of snow.
3. Not an insect or a berry,
 Hip or haw is seen around,
Not a worm to make them merry,
 Not a grain of corn is found.
4. Eye and ear they look and listen
 Opposite the window pane,
Where the beams of sunrise glisten
 Till the sash is raised again.
5. Soon their little friends will muster
 In the cheerful breakfast-room,
At the window soon will cluster
 Girls and boys in rosy bloom.

6. Birds fly down and hop and hover,
For they see their breakfast comes,
As on that white table-cover
Loving hands throw showers of crumbs.
7. Then, while birds their bounty gather,
Rosy cheek and curly head
Bend and pray to God the Father,
“Give us, Lord, our daily bread.”

REV RICHARD WILTON. ("Humane Educator.")

WORDS FOR SPELLING.

1.	4.	hatch'-ed	cour'-age
Eu'-rope	ey'-rie		reach'-ed
civ'-il-iz-ed	cod'-dling	9	
Pyr-e-nees'	daz'-zles	or'-chard	13.
poi'-son-ous	whirl'-wind	sneak'-ing	bruis'-ing
froz'-en			stud'-i-ed
cham'-ois	5.	10.	nip'-ping
pil'-chard	cous'-in	friend'-ly	wrap'-ped
Med-i-ter-ra'-ne-an	ter'-ri-bly	swal'-lows	
Switz'-er-land	catch'-ing	caus'-ed	14.
wal'-low-ed	6	pour'-ed	beech'-trees
hy-æ'-nas	dor'-mouse	neigh'-bours	be-neath'
gi-gan'-tic	weav'-ing	ut'-ter-ing	wear'-i-ed
hip-po-pot'-a-mus	climb	per-suad'-ed	pa'-ti-ent
	whisk'-ers	or'-phans	
2.	cup'-board		
do-mes'-tic	kern'-els	11.	15.
lan'-guage		chest'-nut	stick'-le-back
seiz'-ed	7.	peer'-ing	ditch'-es
fright'-en-ed	cuck'-oo	search'-ing	breathe
bi'-cy-cle	stut'-ter-ing	watch'-ed	guats
	list' en-ing	in stead'	plague
3.	puz'-zles		
mu-se'-um	hedge'-spar-	12.	16.
wretch'-ed	row	house'-build-	guard'-i-an
roar'-ing		ers	scoops
launch'-ed	8.	can'-vas	
	anx'-i-ous	um-brel'-la	17.
		nest'-lings	newt

un-der-neath'	22.	cat'-er-pil-lar	clutch'-ed
ox'-y-gen	pit'-i-ed	co'-bra	mort'-gage
drown'-ed	stretch'-ing	ter-ror	buck'-wheat
a-muse'-ment	scream'-er	pig'-e-on	
	wa'-ter-spout	Pon'-di-cher-ry	33.
18.	search'-ing		
scales			shoul'-ders
dread'-ful	23.	con'-ti-nent	ap'-pe-tite
bur'-i-ed	leop'-ards	trop'-i-cal	stom'-ach
knock'-ing	squeez'-ed	rain'-low	snooze
	crouch'-ing	cheer'-ful	snort'-ing
19.		ze'-bras	
Arc'-tic	24.	an'-te-lope	34.
Si-be'-ri-a	scent	gi-raf-fes'	chim-pan'-zees
Yen'-i-sei	lav'-en-der	Mis-sis-sip'-pi	knuck'-les
squir'-rel	Duch'-ess	Zam-be'-si	sup-pos'-ed
A-ra'-bi-an	hand'-ker-	equa'-tor	mut'-fles
Ev'-er est	chief	Vic-to'-ri-a	pit'-e-ous
mul'-ber-ry		Ny-an'-sa	
Hin'-du-stan	25	brows'-ing	35.
croc'-o-dile	cause	rhi-noc'-e-ros	fa'-vour-ite
ga'-vi-al	shout	os'-trich	com'-rades
naugh'-ty	beau'-te-ous	rear'ed	
	26		36.
20.	is'-lands	graz'-ing	mot'-tled
heav'-y	spread'-ing	star'-ed	tongue
com-plaint'	car'-ri-on		daint'-i-ly
Bac'-tri-an	cock'-chaf-er		re-proach
drom'-e-da-	mis'-chief	Liv'-ing-stone	in'-no-cent
ries	brace'-let	pro-vok'-ed	
nos'-trils		de-fi'-ed	37.
tight'-ly	27.	ap-proach'-ed	in-creas'-es
	sen'-si-ble	chlo'-ro-form	shear'-ed
21.	grate'-ful	cu-ri-os'-i-ty	wear'-ing
Bor'-ne-o	knives	res'-cue	
pos'-ture	perch'-ed		38.
weight	feast		float'-ing
fierce'-ly		32.	grin'-ning
snatch'-ing	ta'-per-ing	trough	grat'-i-tude
		sti'-fled	

WORDS FOR SPELLING.

39.

ca-na'-ries
slav'-e-ry
bathe
nib'-bling
se'-crets
pried
fly'-ing

40

bough
feath'-er-ed
build
clam'-our-ing
med'-dling
no'-tice
fledg'-ed

41.

tem'-per-ate
Pan'-a-ma
buf'-fa-loes
re'-gi-ons
Mis-sou'-ri
prai'-rie
ter'-ri-er
ea'-gles

42.

at-tempt'
cream'-white
chill'-ed
Christ'-mas
cov'-er-let
zo-o-log'-i-cal

43

whale
ba-leen
whale'-bone
44.
gi'-ant-ess
barb'-ed
guid'-ed
mis'-chief

45.

fro'-lic-some
hitch'-ing
li'-quid
ro'-guish-ly

46

slaugh'-ter
steal'-ing
chis'-el
trow'-el
plane
build'-ers
piers
cir'-cle
herb'-age

47.

bril'-li-ant
hon'-ey
spoil'-ing
en-tan'-gle
lich'-ens
Mex'-i-can
bar'-bar-ous

48.

chirp'-ing

49.

but'-ter-flies
streak'-ed
mar'-bled
trou'-ble
gau'-dy
tor'-toise

50.

cat'-er-pil-lar
cush'-i-on
crawl'-ing

51.

Aus-trala-
si-a

Zea'-land

Kan-garoo'
haunch'-es
pouch'-ed
o-pos'-sum
cock'-a-toos
laugh'-ing
Trop'-ic
Cap'-ri-corn
de-scend'-ed
col'-o-ny

52.

leap'-ing
crouch'-es

53.

light'-en-ed

escape'

54.

wea'-sel
fierce

55.

nur'-se-ry
frol'-ic
ro'-dents
gnaw'-ing

56.

watch'-es
any'-where
toast'-ed

57.

sleep'-ing
sea-shore
frig'-ate
ea'-si-ly

58.

bus'-i-ness
jag'-ged

59.

polyp
mil'-li-ons
Pa-cif'-ic
bar'-ri-ers
Poly-ne'-si-a
Mal'-dive
dream'-ed

60.

thorough'-
bred

ridge
seem'-ed
bis'-cuits
kitch'-en
throat
pour'-ed
re-viv'-ed



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